



THE BANGLADESH TODAY

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TUESDAY

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REGIONAL

Philippine typhoon weakens but leaves 21 dead

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ENTERTAINMENT

Chairman of TBT visits set of 'Ratir Jatri'

>Page 8



SPORT

Lionel Messi's hat-trick sees Barcelona come from behind to thrash Espanyol

>Page 9



ROAD TO VICTORY

Pakistan prepares to surrender as noose tightens around Dhaka

DHAKA : With chilling monotony the appeal of Indian army chief of staff, General S A M Manekshaw, to the Pakistani forces in Occupied Bangladesh, was repeated every half hour on All India Radio and leaflets continued to rain on in Dhaka on December 9, 1971, reports BSS.

The Pakistan army was also contemplating such an eventuality but they offered a ceasefire, initially, to test the waters.

The message was conveyed through the American Consulate in Dhaka. On the same day Chandpur and Daudkandi were liberated by the Mitra Bahini. The stage was finally set for a decisive attack on Dhaka.

Earlier on December 8, Comilla and Brahmanbaria were liberated. In Brahmanbaria the Pakistanis were expected to put up a fight but they did not, while in Comilla they retreated to the cantonment.

The Mitra Bahini did not storm the

> (Contd. on page-11)



Sedition case

Charge sheet submitted against Khoka

DHAKA : Police on Monday submitted the charge sheet of a sedition case against BNP vice-chairman Sadek Hossain Khoka, reports UNB.

According to the case, Khoka at a party programme on October 14 last year urged the BNP activists to demonstrate with machetes and axes.

Tofail Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Paltan Police Station and also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court. The charge sheet includes 24 prosecution witnesses.

The court fixed December 14 to decide whether it will take cognisance of the charge or not.

Paltan Police Station sub-inspector Khairul M Shahidullah Pradhan filed the case against Khoka on December 7 last year.



Namaz Timings

Today

	Start	Jamaat
Fajr	05:10 AM	05:45 AM
Zohr	11:55 PM	01:15 PM
Asr	03:35 PM	04:15 PM
Magrib	05:13 PM	05:15 PM
Esha	06:35 PM	07:30 PM

Tahajjud After midnight

Source: Islamic Foundation

SUNSET	: 05:11 PM
SUNRISE	: 06:28 AM

Corruption creates contamination chain

Int'l Anti-Corruption Day today

HABIBUR RAHMAN OVI

Corruption is a barrier to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG). Corruption is a complex social- economic and political phenomenon that affects all the development sectors of any country and is considered as a basic reason of governmental instability.

The International Anti-Corruption Day 2014 will be observed today in the country as well as across the world aiming to demolishing the branches of corruption with the theme 'Break the corruption chain'.

TIB Executive Director, Iftekharuzzaman talked up a The Bangladesh Today correspondent about the corruption condi-

tion in the country. "Corruption is a not a new phenomenon in socio-economic sector of the country, but the alarming issue is that the law enforcers couldn't bring the culprits under trial for having their high connection with the political parties", he said.

"Corruption attacks the foundation of democratic institutions by distorting electoral processes, perverting the rule of law and creating bureaucratic weakness, whose only reason for existing is the practicing of taking bribes", he added. While releasing a report on health sector recently, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, said, "The members of the ruling Awami League



Corruption in our country is more like that of a spider web, spreading and making itself existent in every nooks and corners.

backed doctors group 'Swachip' are involved in corruption in the health sector, which is an alarming issue for the

nation". Terming ACC a government institution, Iftekharuzzaman said, "Anti-Corruption Commission has been

working as an agent of the government, which proves that the government

> (Contd. on page-11)

Minimum cost for single hajj pilgrim fixed at Tk 2,96,206

New hajj package approved

DHAKA : The Cabinet on Monday approved the draft of 'Hajj Package 2015' fixing the minimum cost for single hajj pilgrim at Tk 2,96,206, reports UNB.

Some 1,01,758 Bangladeshi pilgrims are to be allowed to perform hajj next year (2015) through a provision of mandatory online registration and having Machine Readable Passports

gious congregation, will be held on September 22 next year depending on moon sighting in Saudi Arabia.

Of the total pilgrims, some 10,000 will perform hajj in 2015 under government management while 91,758 pilgrims under private management, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said briefing reporters after the meeting.



Photo: Internet

(MRPs).

The approval to the new hajj package was given at the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet held at Bangladesh Secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The hajj, the largest Muslim reli-

He said the Saudi government has introduced a new system of electronic hajj management in 2015 under which the interested hajj pilgrims would have to make advance online registration while no one would be allowed without the MRPs.

No chance of BNP's movement on price hike of power, gas: Suranjit

DHAKA : Awami League Advisory Council member and former Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta, MP, yesterday said BNP will not get scope to launch any movement on the issue of enhanced prices of electricity and natural gas, reports BSS.

"BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul has, by this time, threatened to launch a non-stop movement if the prices of electricity and gas are enhanced. The matter relating to price hike of electricity and gas will be taken into consideration for development interest keeping people's interest above all coordinating with national and international markets. But, price hike or lowering of prices will not be done at the BNP's threat for move-

ment," he said.

Suranjit Sengupta, also chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, said this while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion in the city.

The Nouka Samarthak Goshthi, an organisation of supporters of Awami League's polls symbol 'Boat', organised the discussion at the Diploma Engineers Institution auditorium at Kakrail in the capital with its vice-president Md Sajjad Hossain in the chair. Samyabadi Dal central leader Haroon Chowdhury and leaders of the organisation Md Nazir Miah and Humayun Kabir Mizi were the discussants, among others.

Dhaka, Thimphu agree to negotiate FTA: FS

Both countries also to work for transit with India, he says

DHAKA : Bangladesh and Bhutan have agreed to boost trade and negotiate a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries apart from strong collaboration in the power sector, especially hydroelectric power, reports UNB.

Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque said this at a press conference arranged for the members of the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) at the Foreign Ministry on Monday. "Bhutanese side has proposed to negotiate an FTA with Bangladesh...our Prime Minister has agreed on the proposal," he said.

The Foreign Secretary hoped the negotiation will start soon, and the FTA will be signed which will play a vital role in boosting and minimising the trade gap between the two countries.

Sharing the outcome of Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's three-day visit, Shahidul Haque said power sector collaboration, especially hydroelectric power, came up very strongly at the discussion table. "Bangladesh expressed its desire in both areas- either for joint investment or procuring power from Bhutan."

The Foreign Secretary also said four major areas-power sector collaboration, boosting trade, connectivity and capacity

building- came up largely during the bilateral talks between the two countries.

On connectivity, he said they focused on connectivity in a broader sense not concentrating on physical or road connectivity rather connectivity in terms of sharing thoughts, ideas and people to people connectivity. "Both countries agreed to work together in this area."

He also said the two neighbouring nations agreed on going for transit among Bangladesh-India-Bhutan allowing movements of goods, services and people. The Foreign Secretary said the issue of climate change also came up for discussion at the meeting.

Responding to a question, the Foreign Secretary said the bilateral agreement between the two countries has been renewed for another 10 years.

He said a new university, 'Rangamati Science and Technology University', will be set up and the Bangladesh Prime Minister sought support for the architectural design of the university following the Bhutanese design.

Shahidul Haque also said the Bhutanese Embassy will also be built following Bhutanese architecture. "A land of around 2.4 bighas has been given as a gift to Bhutan and its people."

Nat'l Committee's grand rally at Phulbari Dec 27

Another rally in Dhaka Dec 22

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Now one has no guarantee of natural death, worries Ershad

DHAKA : Worried at the growing incidents of murder and road crash, former military ruler HM Ershad on Monday said now there is no guarantee of people's natural death in the country, let alone the security of their property, reports UNB.

"Now there's no security of public life and property, neither any guarantee whether one will be able to return home safe after day's work outside," he said.

Ershad, the chairman of Jatiya Party, came up with the remarks while addressing a commemorating meeting in memory of his party's presidium member Jahangir Mohammad Adel at the party's Banani office.

About murders and road accidents, Ershad said students in many areas of the country are returning home from their colleges and universities as dead bodies. "Three girls were killed on Sunday in a road accident."



Biman's new foreign MD to join on Jan 5

DHAKA : South Africa-born British citizen Kyle Haywood, the new managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines, is going to take over on January 5, reports UNB.

"The new Biman MD will assume his office on January 5," AM Mosaddique Ahmed, a director of Biman, now serving as acting managing director and CEO of the national flag carrier, told UNB.

Haywood, managing director of Fastjet, a low-cost South African carrier, served in traditional carriers such as British Airways and Etihad Airways, and Air Arabia. He also served as the CEO of Air Uganda.

According to the Biman sources, the new MD has submitted a three-month prior notice to the organisation he is currently working for.

Haywood, Biman's second foreign MD, has initially been appointed on a one-year contract which has the provision of extending his service.

The post of Biman MD and CEO has been lying vacant since April 17 last following the resignation of the first-ever foreign MD of the national flag carrier, Kevin Steele.



Governor Safina Rahman distributed Rotary awards to distinguished persons

I am Nusrat Jahan Tima. My Father name is Azizul Hoque Munna. I live at 202, Maddah Paik Para, Mirpur-1 in Dhaka. I lost my PSC Certificate from Maddah Paik Para, Mirpur-1 in Dhaka on 5, December, 2014. My PSC Certificate roll number is 45378, 2005. I informed to the Mirpur Model Thana on 7, December, 2014. My General Dairy number is 564.

[illegible]

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৫৩৪ (২) /৭/১২/১৪
জিডি-১৭৪৭/১৪ (৯৫৩)

The 42nd Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Jessore Unit, was held on December 6th. However the meeting was adjourned by everyone's complaine due to the shortage of quorum. The picture shows the secretary of Jessore Unit, Jahid Hasan Tuku addressing the meeting continued on 7th December.

[illegible]



Education to make human resources

Despite the recent success of Bangladesh in terms of GDP growth, exports earnings, etc., the question remains if the country could have done much better in these and other indicators of economic progress. Most experts would agree that Bangladesh's economic development could be more stable and sustained if it were built on a solid foundation of a highly-educated workforce, a quality educational system (especially in sciences, technologies and vocational training) and supportive policies that provide the necessary foundation for a modern science and technology-based economy.

A determined and progressive national leadership must work to change the present culture that patronize general education and even redundant forms of education, to improve the quality of higher education, to establish more efficient management processes, to seek alliances with the international scientific community, and to create private and public sector partnerships for achieving the desired results.

Looking at the present educational scenario in Bangladesh one finds little more than tokenism in response to the need of building up an educational system suitable for meeting the needs of a dynamic economy. Worldwide, the experience has been that national power and economic power depends too vitally on making human resources out of people. To make the human resources, the most important requirement is education but that education must be of a kind that enable humans to become the makers and doers of things.

Unfortunately, in Bangladesh, notwithstanding apparent pursuits of governmental educational policies, the main structures in the educational systems continue to produce persons with general education having little actual application in industries, services and the professions. The education system still allows for a huge number of so called students to take degrees in literature, language, humanities and religion. But under the present circumstances when Bangladesh needs knowledge in far greater degrees to create doers and movers of things than idle theorists or romanticists, it becomes very much questionable how far it is sensible to drag on-- so disproportionately compared to actual need--the burden and waste incurred in the latter form of education.

President Obama of the USA in his address to American people--sometime ago--declared the vow of his administration to turn a completely new leaf in the educational system. The USA used to be the topmost country in the world in everything including education. But the US President in his speech noted how his country has been overtaken by others in the sphere of education. In fact, the position of the USA has slid down in many areas of education in comparison to other nations. President Obama considers the decline in USA's greatness as stemming largely from the decline in its educational system that has eroded its competitiveness in the global economy.

Today's Malaysia is a shining example of what visionary leaders can do to change the fate of their nation by promoting education which is truly suitable for economic growth and development. Under its long standing former Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohammad, great emphasis was put on sustaining an education system based on making human resource. That policy paid great dividends by bringing Malaysia to the level of economic attainments it enjoys today.

There is a lesson to be learnt by Bangladeshi leaders from all these. They must graduate out from their role of only paying lip service to the cause of education appropriate to meeting the challenges of the 21st century. They must make up their minds to take the 'decisive' steps to thoroughly reform the archaic prevalent systems of education.

South Africa's Parliamentary Revolution

T. O. Molefe

CAPE TOWN - The South African Parliament went on recess last month after a raucous final session saw sanctions handed down to representatives of the country's newest and third-largest political party, the Economic Freedom Fighters. Twenty of the party's representatives were found guilty of "conduct constituting contempt of Parliament" and some were suspended without pay for as long as 30 days. But if anyone has treated Parliament with contempt, it's President Jacob Zuma and his African National Congress.

They have used their majority to shield Mr. Zuma and his administration from accountability for lavish spending on upgrading the president's private residence, ostensibly for security-related reasons. Under their watch, the project's costs soared nearly tenfold, and its scope expanded to installing fixtures that had nothing to do with the president's security. Mr. Zuma has consistently denied he personally benefited from the upgrades, despite two independent reports asserting the opposite from the Office of the Public Protector, Thuli Madonsela, and another from the national police force's special investigations unit.

But reason and rules often are worlds apart. And in this gap, tensions have boiled over as opposition parties bucked the rules in so-far unsuccessful attempts to hold Mr. Zuma accountable. Frustrated, they've turned to the courts to adjudicate an issue that's as much about interpreting the Constitution as it is about the appetite of the public to participate in the country's democracy. According to the rules, Mr. Zuma and the A.N.C. are entitled to use their majority to protect the party's interests. This includes electing Baleka Mbete as speaker of the house, the final arbiter of debate in the National Assembly, the lower house of Parliament. As the party's chairwoman, Ms. Mbete also presides over meetings of the A.N.C.'s highest decision-making committee. This obviously creates a conflict when the interests of the A.N.C. are at odds with the interests of Parliament as an institution of democratic accountability. Ms. Mbete's dismissive rulings in debates over upgrades to Mr. Zuma's private residence are a case in point. However, the rules are mum on the level of independence required by the speaker. Until the E.F.F.'s sudden 25-seat debut in the 400-seat National Assembly last May, other parties seemed resigned to obeying the rules. Led by 33-year-old Julius Malema, a former president of the A.N.C.'s youth league who was accused of sowing disunity and expelled from the party in 2012, the E.F.F. has chosen to ignore rules that do not make logical sense in the circumstances.

- The New York Times

T.O. Molefe is an essayist, at work on a book on post-apartheid race relations.

Israel's worst enemy is Netanyahu

LINDA S. HEARD

His attempts to paint Jews as victims are cynical and a mere pretext to perpetuate brutal occupation.

A gale of international disapproval, far from softening Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hardline stance towards Palestinians is having the opposite effect. It reminds me of one of Aesop's fables. The wind and the sun were in dispute as to which was stronger. They noticed a traveller wearing a cloak. Whichever of us can force the man to remove his cloak is the winner, they decided. The wind blew hard but the man wrapped his garment more tightly around him. When the sun shone brightly, he took it off. Netanyahu has a siege mentality. He has lived his life in survival mode premised on Jews as eternal victims, which is why in almost all of his major speeches he refers to the Holocaust. Israel is a nuclear-armed country with the most powerful army in the region and is under the protection of the superpower. His attempts to paint Jews as victims are cynical; they are nothing more than a pretext to perpetuate Israel's brutal occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem citing the Palestinians as an existential threat.

But like the wind in the fable, the more that Israel uses its might to subdue a people under occupation, the harder they fight for freedom. Treat them with respect, permit them to live independently in their own state without military checkpoints, hostile colonists and perpetual fear that their homes and orchards could be expropriated, a peaceful radiance would illuminate the entire region. This is common sense, not rocket science, but, unfortunately, a warhorse like Netanyahu is more comfortable with aggression than reconciliation, more used to managing the status quo than taking a chance on peace.

Israel's far right are doing Israelis a grave disservice. Their nationalistic fervour, determination to expand Jewish colonies and prevent Palestinians from worshipping in Islam's third holiest mosque Al Aqsa are grist for militants' mill. Israel's arrogant behaviour, its onslaughts on Gaza and the fact that it no longer bothers even to pay lip service to the peace process, is killing the one thing that has kept the Palestinian people strong against all odds - hope. When talks fail and hope dies, their only recourse is to accept subjugation or fight it tooth and nail.

Until recently, Netanyahu felt free to act with impunity in the belief that Israel's friends would always shield it from the international community's condemnation. But the days when Israel could do no wrong are coming to an end. On the heels of Sweden's official recognition of a Palestinian state, Belgium is poised to do likewise. Both the British and French parliaments have voted in favour of such

recognition, albeit such votes were non-binding. The UN Human Rights Council has launched a Gaza war inquiry to probe Palestinian accusations that Israel committed war crimes, while a separate team of UN investigators is currently in Gaza to study violations of neutrality on UN installations there. However, the real shocker is this. According to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, "White House and State Department officials have recently met to discuss the possibility of imposing sanctions on Israel in an effort to stop housing construction projects in eastern Jerusalem." When State Department spokeswoman, Marie Harf, was asked to confirm this she said she could not comment on "internal" deliberations, which speaks for itself.

Certain US lawmakers are up in arms over the rumour and have written to the White House demanding an explanation. There is no love lost between the US President Barack Obama and Netanyahu, but whether the US leader is prepared for a Congressional firestorm in the run-up to a Republican-dominated Congress with the ability to turn the president into a lame duck is another matter. One might imagine that there has never been a better time for Netanyahu to stay under the radar. In this climate, Israel can do without yet more controversy. But no, he's come out swinging, introducing a bill in the Knesset

run contrary to Israel's claim to be the only democracy in the Middle East and would certainly inflame Palestinians living in Israel, who make up almost 22 per cent of the population. A number of Jewish organisations outside Israel are openly disapproving. Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin, an author of books on Judaism based in New Jersey, says, "The government of Israel is playing with American Jewish fire. If Israel is perceived as being anti-democratic, many American Jews will walk away, or drift away, or simply, passively, no longer care." An editorial in Ha'aretz expresses outrage: "The prime minister has once again proved to be an extreme nationalist willing to sacrifice this country's basic values in pursuit of a destructive ideology." Clearly Netanyahu and his ilk have passed their sell-by date, but the mystery is this: why are the Israeli people still keen to buy?

- The Gulf News

Linda S. Heard is a specialist writer on Middle East affairs. She can be contacted at lheard@gulfnews.com

Sit back, relax and ignore that email inbox

OLIVER BURKEMAN

In the future, maybe you will be able to respond to everything. For now, simply turn off those notifications

It is always nice to encounter scientific backing for advice you have been dispensing to your friends for years, whether or not they ever actually asked for it - so I was pleased to learn of a new study lending support to the notion that if you check email less frequently, you will be less stressed. As Jesse Singal explains at Science of Us, researchers at the University of British Columbia instructed two groups of people to treat their email in radically different ways. One was told to keep their email programme closed, with notifications off, checking messages only three times a day. The other did what too many of us do instead: Kept their notifications switched on and checked email ceaselessly through the day. The occasional checkers felt less stressed - while the frequent checkers did not even have the compensation of feeling any more productive. This may seem obvious: Do a stressful thing less frequently and you will be less stressed. ("Doctor, it hurts when I do that!" "Well don't do that, then.") But as the study's

co-author Kostatin Kushlev points out, it is a bit more intriguing than that: Resisting temptations, like checking email, is itself generally an unpleasant and effortful experience. So why did engaging in that activity make people feel better than just checking messages when they came in? One likely answer is that it reduced the high cognitive costs of task-switching: Jumping between different kinds of tasks consumes energy and time, so "batching" is just a more efficient use of your limited capacities. Another is that feelings of autonomy make us happier. When you check email at fixed times, you are taking control of when it enters your mental world; check it whenever a new message comes in, and essentially email is controlling you. The "check it occasionally" approach to email, then, has always been a good idea (provided your job lets you get away with it). But it is also an approach that is especially well-suited to how email is changing. More and more, our inboxes are not inboxes at all. That metaphor, borrowed from physical in-trays, implies an assumption that everything that enters will be seen, thought about, then replied to as appropriate. But as email

volumes continue to spiral upwards, our inboxes are turning into streams akin to Facebook's newsfeed. Nobody really expects you to see every item in a stream - and the only way to deal with one sanely is to dip in for a while, deal with whatever looks important, urgent or entertaining and then to step away and let the stream flow on.

As an advocate - and still, mostly, a practitioner - of Inbox Zero, this pains me. I am resigned to treating other sources of incoming data as streams. If my backlog of unread magazines gets too big, I happily throw them out. If you reply to me on Twitter, but your message scrolls out of sight before I see it, it is probably gone for good - and I am afraid I do not have the bandwidth to feel bad about that. But I cling to the notion that email's different: That it is governed, rightly, by a default assumption that every message sent to me, or by me, deserves a reply. In practice, of course, there are countless emails I don't reply to: Thousands of spam messages I never even see; hundreds of impersonal advertisements and PR email-blasts I ignore; plus, I confess, a handful of personal messages that just seem too

arduous to engage with.

And algorithms are easing the process of ignoring emails: Gmail has been nudging us to focus on certain emails while ignoring others since it launched Priority Inbox; its new product, Gmail Inbox, promises to comb messages to extract important meetings and tasks. Presumably, the endpoint is that email comes to resemble Facebook, where there is never a guarantee that you will see something a friend posts, if the algorithm does not think you should. (And who influences the algorithm? Couldn't Starbucks just pay Google to prioritise those messages in which friends suggest we meet for coffee there?)

Still, the social norm persists: If you email me as an individual, I aim to reply; if I email you - and you are not a celebrity, or someone else I would expect to be abnormally overwhelmed by messages - I will be awaiting your response. But what will happen as volume makes that unfeasible for ever more people?

- Guardian News & Media Ltd

A win for Russia, Ukraine and the West

MICHAEL O'HANLON & JEREMY SHAPIRO

Nato leaders should attempt to work with Moscow to create a new European security order acceptable to both sides before taking further action

Recent reports of more troop and equipment movements into the separatist-held regions of Ukraine suggest that Russia is once again seeking to stir up trouble. The natural western reaction has been to respond with firmness. Sanctions may be tightened; defensive weaponry may be provided to Ukraine's under-equipped and overmatched military. Given such bullying Russian tactics, this reaction is not only natural but perhaps inevitable.

Yet, the western policy response is half-wrong and the incorrect part of it risks making 2015 just as bad a year for Ukrainian security and East-West relations as was 2014. Western policymakers do not deserve blame for the unconscionable tactics that Russian President Vladimir Putin has employed in Crimea and eastern Ukraine. But their actions risk reinforcing an action-reaction dynamic that will quite probably make the No 1 victim of this crisis to date - the people of Ukraine - worse off than before.

This is not a moral question. It is entirely justifiable to provide weapons to a sovereign nation seeing its territory assaulted by a much more powerful neighbour. But regardless of right and wrong, the result of providing weapons will not be a robust self-defence capability for Ukraine. The Ukrainian military faces Russian armed forces more than five times as large and perhaps 10 to 20 times as powerful. Indeed, should such arms encourage Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to

directly challenge Russian forces on his territory, the most likely outcome is escalation of the military crisis and a dramatic increase in death and destruction in Ukraine. Meanwhile, Russian propaganda will continue to vilify the West and sow the seeds of future crises elsewhere in Russia's neighbourhood.

Before taking such actions, and before adding permanent Nato deployments to the Baltic states - another understandable, but potentially counterproductive, reaction to the crisis - Nato leaders should attempt to work with Moscow to create a new European security order acceptable to both sides. Many western voices will view any such effort as rewarding Russia and Putin for their miserable behaviour of the past year. However, this approach would be designed not as a reward but to protect Ukraine's security - and that of Europe's.

If the Russian people were souring on Putin, there would be an argument for simply keeping the pressure on through sanctions while threatening more to come, should he escalate. But the Russian leader enjoys 85 per cent popularity at home, where many see his actions as reasonable retribution against a supposedly triumphalist Nato that has expanded right up to Russia's borders since the Cold War, a narrative reinforced by a tightly controlled Russian media. At this point, Putin is a moderate on the Russian political spectrum.

In keeping with some of the ideas put forth by former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, and building as well on suggestions from former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski - two great US strategists not thought of as appeasers or wishful thinkers - the deal that should be proposed to

Russia would include elements like these:

- * Russia can make its historically based claim on Crimea but would have to accept a binding referendum under outside monitoring that would determine the region's future, with independence as one option.

- * Russia would agree to verifiably remove its military "volunteers" from eastern Ukraine.

- * Russia would permanently commit, once the Crimea matter was settled, to uphold Ukraine's territorial security, as promised under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum covering the denuclearisation of Ukraine and other former Soviet republics.

- * Ukraine and the US would agree that Ukraine would not be a candidate for Nato membership, now or in the future.

- * A new pan-European security structure, building perhaps on the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, would be established with an eye toward upholding the territorial integrity of European states writ large. This association should give Moscow some sense of equal partnership and could include Nato members and former Soviet states.

- * Nato would be unapologetically retained with its current membership. But because of the new security arrangement, it could eschew further enlargement and increasingly play only a supporting role in European security, refocusing on missions outside of Europe.

- * The European Union would agree to work with Russia to make any possible future Ukrainian relationship with the union, including membership, compatible with Ukraine's participation in Russia's

Eurasian Economic Union project.

- * Sanctions on Russia would be gradually - and, in the end, completely - lifted as the elements of this agenda came into effect.

To be sure, Putin could claim that this agreement accomplished his core goals and portray it as a great victory. Perhaps his popularity would then rise to 88 per cent or 90 per cent - for a while. Then, as time would go on, this accomplishment would be internalised and Russian voters would likely hold Putin accountable for what he should have been doing all along: Improve their way of life through good economic and political leadership. Long-term Russian weakness means that the West can afford to compromise now. Russia will not have the power to dominate its neighbours for very long, no matter what the West does. Yet, it could have the power and the will to foment trouble for many years in the absence of a durable deal of the type proposed above. Moreover, as much as it may grate now, pursuing a win-win outcome for Russia, Ukraine and the West is far smarter than zero-sum thinking. There is too much threat to Central Europe and too large an agenda crying out for Russian-western cooperation - from Iran to the broader Middle East to Afghanistan to North Korea - for US security to benefit from any intensification or prolongation of the crisis of 2014. We did not start this conflict, but we can take steps that dramatically improve the chances of ending it.

- Washington Post

Michael O'Hanlon and Jeremy Shapiro are scholars in the foreign policy programme of the Brookings Institution.



DIU Startup Market

An initiative to create new entrepreneur

Kazi Mesbah Ur Rahman

World unemployment problem is growing up day by day across the world. No doubt, it will be the major crisis around the world in near future. According to international Labor Organization (ILO), more than 200million people are unemployed worldwide where 10 millions are youth. Some experts have predicted that entrepreneurship will be the best solution to unemployment.

As a young graduate or as a young dreamer it's not easy to be an entrepreneur. You have to face lot of challenges and many obstacles. Starting problem is the one of the major barrier to create young entrepreneurship across the world because it seems difficult until start. To solve the starting difficulty of young entrepreneurs Daffodil -Startup Market is holding every Thursday at Daffodil International University premises.

What is Daffodil-Startup Market?

The idea of Daffodil Startup Market is very simple. It is similar to Bangladeshi traditional Haat.If you are a student, if you have innovative products or services, the market welcomes you to create your own shop. You have to pay very small for the spaceto meet up the market utilities. The market owner will not take any profit or dividend .The profit will stay with the market for further expansion.

We can grasp Startup Market several point of view

Entrepreneurs Lab

It's a platform for young entrepreneurs to run their small business, to learn from experience. For example, if you have new products or services you can test the market values as well as you can compare your product from over here.

School of Enterprise

The market will offer several training for entrepreneurs. For example, if you have wonderful portraits. You have to accrue a shop to run your portrait business .If you don't have any professional training. Nothing to be

worried the Market offers you training, workshop, mentorship to explore your creativity. In addition an entrepreneur can get real life experience how to convince customer, how to sell, how to buy, what are the limitations.

School of Coordination

The market is ready to build your own business platform. If you have wonderful business idea but you don't have the scope to make the dream true. Don't let the dream drop. Search your potential partners through the market. Suppose, you can make wonderful handicrafts and you are searching for designer or seller. You can get your expected one from the market.

Inter and the intra university Startup Market will bring millions of scope to create your own business collaboration, cooperation and information as well. The online startup Market will create international market for its entrepreneurs. Figure 2: creative lights by MTCA department

What's New?

We are familiar with Supermarket, Haat, Bazaar, Border Market, Floating Market,Flea Market so on. Now we are welcoming you to be familiar with Startup Market. The specialty of the Market are its run and operates by the students, it's on campus market where customers are from the campus or outside of the campus.

Another specialty is the idea of startup markets motivated by the concept of social business where owner of the market is very much seek to solve students / graduates unemployment problems, young entrepreneurs startup problems (Fund/ Place/Mentorship). The aims are to gain more social values rather than profit.

The market is very much sought to create entrepreneurs of third generation business who are not willing to maximize profit rather than social benefit. Market may impose few conditions for young entrepreneurs. For example, Product and the way of processing

product should be environment friendly.

Is it Sustainable?

Why not? No doubt University itself is a large market. Our question is why the students who dreamed to be a job provider are not taking this slot of opportunities?

Here we can explain the first and second Daffodil Startup Market.

The first Daffodil Startup Market was inaugurated by Mr. Shyam Sundor Sikdar, Secretary, Ministry of ICT, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh and Professor. Dr. Golam Rahman, Honorable Pro-VC, Daffodil International University on September 25, 2014. It's a history where 30entrepreneurs with 22 shops were participated.

The second Startup Market held on October 19 with huge enthusiasm. The total transition of first and second startup market more than 500USD where we get 40 young entrepreneurs with lot of innovative products and services. The popularity of Daffodil-Startup Market is increasing widely. From September to December this year the Startup market was held five times at DIU campus where six startup markets are knocking on the door.

Social Impact:

We empowered none empowered youth by making him/her contribution in the management of Startup Market.

We employed unemployed youth by making him/her entrepreneurs, employers in the market. Finally the young entrepreneurs or the young dreamers who get motivation from the market contribute to the society to the economy of the country

Reminder

As the job market is shrinking day by day, it's not good time to be a graduate looking for job. For the raising graduate unemployment, job market is growing more competitive than before. A hidden job is waiting for all class of graduate. The jobs you make yourself. The Startup market is a unique platform for young student to startup his/her own small business.

Around 13 DU admission seekers injured by police

At least 13 were injured and three detained after police used water cannon and batons to smash 2nd-time admission seekers of Dhaka University

Admission seekers assembled at the TSC intersection at DU campus around 11:30 am and began a march

towards the Prime Minister's Office to hand a memo, witnesses said.

Policemen charged batons to disperse the agitators in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh. About three demonstrators were injured.

Police, however, allowed six

representatives of the students to go to the PMO to submit the memorandum. The six members are Salman Khan, Raidul Islam, Razu Hasan, Aziz-ur Rahman, Emon Ahmed and Delowar Hossain.

At one stage, the rest of the

students tried block the entrance road of DU in front of the National Museum. To disperse the agitating students, police used water cannons. They also arrested three from the spot on charge of attacking the law enforcers by pelting brick chips around 2:00 pm.

The arrestees are admission seekers Riadul Islam, a HSC graduate from University Laboratory College, and Ahasan Habib from Camilla Victoria College; and Bangladesh Chhatra Union Central Committee organizing secretary Zilani Shuvo.

Shahbagh Police Station Inspector Md. Habil said, "Bhutan's prime minister is in Bangladesh now. Many VIP's are using the road [the Shahbagh road]. We used water cannons to disperse them when they tried to block the road", he said.

Salman Khan, an admission seeker said, "The authorities of the university are using police to control us. But we will not stop our movement until the authorities change their decision."

On October 14, the DU university authorities decided not to allow admission seekers to appear in the first year honors entrance exams for the second time. Since then, the admission seekers have been demonstrating for over one and half months demanding the cancellation of the decision



Workshop on water supply in coastal areas held at DU

DHAKA : A daylong workshop on "water supply in coastal areas" was held at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan auditorium of Dhaka University, reports BSS.

Dhaka University (DU) Geology Department, Acacia Water of the Netherlands, UNICEF and the Department of Public Health Engineering, Government of Bangladesh jointly organized the event titled, "Managed Aquifer Recharge for Community Water Supply in Coastal Areas: From Action

Research to Sustainable Up Scaling".

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest with Pro-Vice Chancellor (Admin) Prof Shahid Akhtar Hossain in the chair, said a press release.

The function was also addressed, among others, by Michiel Slotema, Policy Advisor Water of Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka, Hrachya Sargsyan of UNICEF, Engineer Khaleda Ahsan , Chief Engineer of Public Health Engineering

and Prof Dr Kazi Matin Ahmed of DU Geology Department.

Prof Arefin said Dhaka University stands for mitigating sufferings of common people of Bangladesh. Scientists and researchers of the University are involved with many research activities on different areas relating to problems of common people.

He thanked the UNICEF and government of Netherlands for conducting research jointly with Dhaka University on pure water supply in coastal areas.



JCD enforces non stop strike at RU

RAJSHAHI : The Rajshahi University (RU) unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student associate body of BNP, on Sunday enforced an indefinite strike on the campus from Monday morning, demanding the release of their arrested leaders and activists, reports UNB.

JCD RU unit vice president Asaduzzaman

Anil announced the strike programme at a meeting on the campus around 11:45 pm on Sunday.

Police on Sunday night arrested 16 JCD activists along with a BNP leader from a meeting at a local school.

The arrestees include RU unit JCD president Imtiaz Ahmed, general secretary Quamrul Hasan, joint general

secretary Sultan Ahmed Rahi and city ward-30 BNP president Nazmul Haque.

Officer-in-charge of Matihar Police Station said they arrested the JCD men and the BNP leader around 9:30pm while they were holding a clandestine meeting at Mirzapur School and College to 'plan subversive acts'.



Leaders of Bangladesh Private Medical Colleges Association (BPMCA) demanded to reset the minimum pass marks in medical admission test at 20 from the existing 40.

The BPMCA leaders came up with the demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) on December 07, 2014.

The BPMCA leaders said, "Almost 35 percent seats remained vacant in both private medical and dental colleges after the minimum pass marks were set at 40".

If it is not changed, 60 percent seats will remain vacant in 2014-2015 session, which

may force many owners to shut down their medical and dental colleges, they added.

This is a plot to destroy private medical and dental education in the country, they alleged.

They also criticized the role of the Health Ministry and Dhaka University in the whole process of admission test and question paper preparation without consulting the BPMCA leaders.

BPMCA president Dr. Moazzem Hossain, adviser Mokbul Hossain, vice president Dr. Shah Mohammad Selim and Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman, MP spoke at the press conference among others.

Philippine typhoon weakens but leaves 21 dead

LEGAZPI : Typhoon Hagupit weakened into a tropical storm Monday, leaving at least 21 people dead and forcing more than a million people into shelters but sparing most of a central Philippine region still haunted by last year's monster storm, reports AP.

While the worst was over in central island provinces, where the sun peeked Monday after days of stormy weather, Manila and outlying provinces braced as Hagupit, or "smash" in Filipino, blew nearer with maximum sustained winds of 105 kilometers (65 miles) per hour and gusts of 135 kph (84 mph).

Forecasters said the storm was expected to slam into a Batangas provincial town about 110 kilometers (68 miles) south of Manila by nightfall. Although considerably weaker from its peak power, the storm remains potentially dangerous and could still whip storm surges that could overwhelm coastal villages, they said.

While officials expressed relief that the typhoon had not caused major damage, they warned that Hagupit



Damage to buildings was reported in Tacloban, but no casualties. Photo: AP

was still on course to barrel into the southern tip of the main northern island of Luzon where Manila is located, before starting to blow away Tuesday into the South China Sea.

Hagupit (pronounced HA'-goo-pit), which made landfall in Eastern Samar late Saturday, was moving slowly at 10 kph (6 mph) and could dump heavy rain that could possibly trigger landslides and flash floods, according to forecasters.

Traumatized by the death

and destruction from Typhoon Haiyan last year, more than 1 million people fled to emergency shelters and safer ground. Many have started to troop back home after the typhoon had blown past their provinces, Philippine Red Cross Secretary-General Gwendolyn Pang said.

"The worst is over for them. It's a big relief because they really got scared of this typhoon with Haiyan in their minds," Pang said. "And there are

still areas bracing for the storm like Manila."

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada said more than 5,000 residents of a shantytown on the edge of Manila Bay have been evacuated due to possible storm surges.

"We've prepared and trained for this," Estrada told The Associated Press, adding his greatest fear was widespread flooding. Metropolitan Manila has a population of more than 12 million people.

Historical Day

Birth and death anniversary of Begum Rokeya

Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hussain was born on this day in 1880 and She also died on this day in 1932, popularly known as Begum Rokeya, was a leading feminist writer and social worker in undivided Bengal during the early 20th century. She is most famous for her efforts on behalf of gender equality and other social issues.

She established the first school aimed primarily at Muslim girls, which still exists today. She was a notable Muslim feminist; modern feminist writers such as Taslima Nasrin cite her as an influence. Begum Rokeya also wrote short stories and novels.

Her important works are Sultana's Dream and Padmarag. Begum Roquia also founded the Anjuman e Khawateen e Islam (Islamic Women's Association), which was active in holding debates and conferences regarding the status of women and education.

She advocated reform, particularly for women, and believed that parochialism and excessive conservatism were principally responsible for the relatively slow development of Muslims in British India.

TMC’s Kunal Ghosh breaks hunger strike

KOLKATA: Suspended Trinamool Congress MP KunalGhosh's health has remained fragile despite him breaking his hunger strike, reports the times of India.

He broke the fast on Saturday. Though Ghosh's family members alleged that they are not being updated about his health condition, prison sources claimed that he's showing signs of improvement and his vital health parameters are normal.

Ghosh broke his hunger strike at around 9.45 pm on Saturday after prison authorities "paid heed to some of his demands". According to Presidency Correctional Home sources, he took a cup of tea and biscuits late at night after repeated persuasions. He also took a "small meal" after that. But he didn't allow doctors to collect blood samples.

"His condition has improved and he is almost normal now," said West Bengal's minister of correctional administration Haider Aziz Safwi. A team of doctors visited Ghosh on Saturday evening. After examination, the doctors suggested that he should be shifted to a 'referral or teaching hospital'. In his report, issued around 5.30 pm, Rajat Chaudhuri - the assistant professor (anesthesiology) of IPGMER - noted that Ghosh did not have any urine output for 22 hours. While he was conscious, doctors found signs of 'mild dehydration' in him.

Later, another team of doctors examined him at around 8.30 pm. In this report, attending doctors mentioned that apart from refusing any oral food, Ghosh even refused intravenous fluid or medication. He



Kunal Ghosh broke his hunger strike at around 9.45 pm on Saturday after prison authorities "paid heed to some of his demands". The times of India

was advised intravenous fluid till the reports of sodium, potassium, urea and creatinine arrives.

Jail sources said that he went through sessions of psychotherapy as he was found restless. "The patient is conscious, oriented and restless. He refuses to have food, water and medicines," another attending doctor wrote. Sources said that doctors have advised to continue with his psychotherapy noticing his anxiety and suicidal tendency.

Kunal's lawyer Saumyajit Raha alleged that they are clueless about his health conditions. "We have come to know about his health condition from media only. Jail authorities have not informed us anything so far," he said.

China sentences 8 to death for attacks in Xinjiang

BELJING : A Chinese court on Monday sentenced eight people to death for involvement in two attacks that left 46 people dead in the far western region of Xinjiang, state broadcaster China Central Television said, reports AP.

The Urumqi Intermediate People's Court in the capital of Xinjiang also handed out suspended death sentences to five others, CCTV said.

On April 30, as Chinese President Xi Jinping was wrapping up a tour to the ethnic region, an explosion shook the Urumqi train station, killing three people, including two attackers.

About three weeks later, on May 22, four men drove two SUVs through a crowded market in central Urumqi and tossed explosives out of car windows, killing themselves and 39 others.

Following the attacks, authorities launched a one-year crackdown on violence in Xinjiang, home to the Muslim, Turkic-speaking Uighur minority.

Beijing has blamed the violence on radical separatists. Critics and human rights advocates say Uighurs have chafed under the repressive rule of the Han Chinese-dominated government.

Uighurs also complain of economic disenfranchisement with the inflow of Han Chinese to their homeland, although Beijing says it is pumping investments into the region to help it grow.

Iran’s president criticizes widening corruption

TEHRAN : Iranian President Hassan Rouhani criticized widening corruption in the Islamic Republic in unusually blunt terms Monday, saying money once "given under the table now is being given on the table." Iran is in the middle of a plan to decentralize and privatize its economy following its 1979 Islamic Revolution. Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei repeatedly has warned officials over possible corruption during implementing the program and high-profile graft cases have shaken the country in recent years, reports UNB.

Speaking at an anti-corruption conference, Rouhani said Iranians "should apply all our power in fighting corruption."

"In the past, (money) was said to be given under the table now is being given on the table," the president said in comments

aired live on state television. "The continuation, the deepening and the expansion of corruption is endangering ... the Islamic Revolution."

Rouhani said increasing openness in government and public awareness would help fight corruption.

In May, Iran executed a billionaire businessman Mahafarid Amir Khosravi, convicted of being at the heart of a \$2.6 billion state bank scam in Iran, the largest since the Islamic Revolution.

In September, a spokesman for Iran's judiciary said former vice president Mohammad Reza Rahimi was convicted on a charge that includes a prison term and a cash fine. It came after repeated allegations by foes of Iran's previous hard-line government of then-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of massive corruption.



Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani is criticizing widening corruption in his country in unusually blunt terms, saying money once “given under the table now is being given on the table.” Reuters

Singaporean jailed for hacking PM's website

SINGAPORE: A court on Monday jailed a 28-year-old Singaporean for two months for defacing the prime minister's website during a rash of cyber attacks in the city-state last year, reports AP.

Mohammad Azhar bin Tahir, who is unemployed, had pleaded guilty to "unauthorised modification" of a section of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's official website on November 7, 2013, causing it to display mocking messages and pictures from international hacker group Anonymous.

The hacking was carried out a day before the website of the Istana, the official residence of President Tony Tan, was defaced in a similar manner.

A court spokeswoman told AFP that Mohammad Azhar was sentenced on Monday to two months in jail for defacing the prime minister's website and a further four months for other unrelated charges under Singapore's Computer Misuse and Cybersecurity Act.

Court documents said Azhar had injected a computer code into the server of Lee's website, www.pmo.gov.sg, causing a section of it to be compromised.

"It's great to be Singaporean today," read another headline next to Anonymous's trademark Guy Fawkes mask, a symbol of anti-establishment defiance worldwide.



China donates US\$500000 to restore water to Maldives capital. Photo: AP

China donates \$500,000 to restore water to Maldives

COLOMBO : Two Chinese air force crafts carrying 40 tons of bottled water and a Chinese navy ship with water purification facilities have arrived in Maldives'capital Male and will provide drinking water to residents, a statement from Maldives' Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

The Chinese government has donated \$500,000 to the Maldives government to speed up repairs in a desalination plant and restore water to the capital, an official said on Sunday.

The donation was done after the Maldives government announced an estimated \$20 million would be needed to repair the plant that was damaged in a fire on Thursday resulting in the capital's population of 130,000 being without water for four days.

"The Chinese government has already come forward with a \$500,000 donation. Discussions are ongoing with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and other Arab governments. We hope to get monetary aid from them," Defense Minister Mohamed Nazim told reporters.

The appeals are being made through the Foreign Ministry. Private donors have also chipped in with an anonymous \$1 million also

coming in from a Saudi businessman.

Water services to the capital Mal were shut off on Thursday after a crippling fire damaged crucial components of the island's sole desalination facility the Mal Water and Sewerages Company (MWSC) leaving thousands of people without water for bathing, cleaning, and cooking.

Authorities have acknowledged that damage to the capital's desalination plant is extensive, and could take between three days and a week to fully repair.

He insisted repairs carried out at the MWSC has shown progress with sporadic water production being distributed to some parts of the capital but admitted the damage was more extensive than initially expected.

Large numbers of homes, hotels, shops and restaurants are either still without water or have access only at ground level resulting in long lines forming at water distribution centers.

Maldives President Abdulla Yameen on Saturday cut short a personal trip to Malaysia where his son is reported to be receiving medical treatment to deal with the crisis.

Spot Light News

China's position paper on South China Sea

BELJING : The Chinese foreign ministry was authorized to release on Sunday a position paper of the government on the matter of jurisdiction in the South China Sea arbitration initiated by the Republic of the Philippines. The following is a translated version of the full text of the position paper:

Norovirus sickens 200 people on New Zealand cruise

WELLINGTON : Health authorities in New Zealand said Monday that about 200 passengers on a cruise ship have been sickened by an outbreak of norovirus. The passengers were among more than 1,500 aboard the Dawn Princess, which was due to leave for Australia Monday as it completes a 13-day voyage.

New Delhi bans Uber after alleged rape by driver

NEW DELHI : A New Delhi transportation official says the Indian capital has banned taxi-booking service Uber after a woman was allegedly raped by one of its drivers, reports UNB. Satish Mathur says Uber taxi services will no longer be able to operate in New Dehli.

UN says Myanmar opium production declines

BANGKOK : The United Nations says Myanmar's opium production fell in 2014 for the first time in nearly a decade, reports AP. The drop was due to lower crop yields, however, and the total area under cultivation remained roughly the same as the previous year.

19 candidates in race for Sri Lankan presidency

COLOMBO : Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and his former health minister are among 19 people to hand in their nominations to contest a presidential election next month. The papers from the 19 were handed in Monday to Elections Commissioner Mahinda Deshapriya.

17 killed in Nepal bus accident

KATMANDU : Police say an overcrowded bus has plunged off a mountain road in Nepal, killing at least 17 people and injuring 50 more, reports AP. Police official Kesh Bahadur Shahi said Monday that the bus veered off the road near Pokharakada village Sunday night and rolled 600 meters down a slope.



An Islamic State fighter walks near the group's black flag on a hill near the besieged Syrian town of Kobane as a Turkish military vehicle passes just across the border . Reuters

EU's Mogherini to press Turkey over IS militants

EU : EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini is in Turkey to urge it to participate fully in the fight against Islamic State militants in Syria, reports AP.

Ms Mogherini and other top EU officials will urge Turkey to stop the flow of foreign fighters across its borders.

In a tweet from the capital Ankara, she said her agenda also included Turkey's EU accession bid.

She will urge Turkey to back sanctions against Russia, despite the warming relationship between Ankara and Moscow.

In an interview with the BBC, Ms Mogherini said that while the crisis in Syria was not something that could be solved from Brussels, the EU still had

a role to play, including "the empowerment of more actors that might take the lead".

"I am sure that the UN can play some sort of a positive role," she said.

The EU wants Turkey to help identify foreign fighters and provide warnings of any danger to aviation security, an unnamed EU official told the Reuters news agency.

EU officials want Turkey to provide more help and support in the fight against IS - and other Middle Eastern militant groups - as part of an initiative to restrict their funding and curtail the flow of foreign fighters.

"The visit is a strong indication of the strategic importance of the EU-Turkey relationship and our desire to

step up engagement," Ms Mogherini said in a statement.

Negotiations over Turkish membership of the EU have been going on since 2005, but have been held up because of disagreements over the divided island of Cyprus and resistance to Turkish EU membership from some member countries. Thousands of Europeans have travelled to fight in Syria with Islamic State or other militant groups, and for them Turkey is a key transit point.

Turkey argues that EU governments should be working harder to prevent putative fighters from travelling to the region. It argues that it has had to make big sacrifices in accommodating up to two million Syrian refugees.

Syria, Iran condemn Israeli air strikes

BEIRUT : The Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers on Monday condemned Israeli airstrikes on two areas near Damascus, calling it an act of aggression that proves Israel was "in the same trench" with extremist groups fighting the Syrian government, reports AP.

Israeli warplanes bombed the two areas Sunday, striking near Damascus' interna-

tional airport as well as outside a town close to the Lebanese border.

The Syrian government said the attacks caused material damage. Israel has not confirmed the strikes, and it was not immediately clear what they targeted, although activists said they hit weapons depots.

Appearing on Israel Radio on Monday, Intelligence

Minister Yuval Steinitz would neither confirm nor deny the news, but offered a subtle hint about what might have been involved.

"We have a very potent defense policy that is oriented toward safeguarding the country and wherever possible preventing the upgrading of weaponry that gives terrorist organizations game-changers or unusually

sophisticated means of attack," he said.

Since Syria's conflict began in March 2011, Israel has carried out several airstrikes in Syria that have targeted sophisticated weapons systems, including Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles and Iranian-made missiles, believed to be destined for Israel's arch foe the Lebanese Hezbollah militant group. Israel has never officially confirmed the strikes.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem claimed Israel was trying to compensate for losses incurred by Islamic extremist groups in Syria at the hands of the Syrian army. He did not elaborate.

He spoke Monday at a joint news conference in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif.

He also said that Syria, along with its Russian and Iranian allies, is working on a political solution for the Syrian conflict "based on dialogue between Syrians and without any outside intervention."

Historical Day

The United States declares war on Japan

On this day, as America's Pacific fleet lay in ruins at Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt requests, and receives, a declaration of war against Japan.

Leaning heavily on the arm of his son James, a Marine captain, FDR walked haltingly into the House of Representatives at noon to request a declaration of war from the House and address the nation via radio. "Yesterday," the president proclaimed, "December 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

Military appeals court to hear HIV assault case

WICHITA: The nation's highest military court this week will hear the case of an airman accused of aggravated assault for exposing multiple sex partners to HIV at parties, reports UNB.

The Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces on Tuesday takes up the case against David Gutierrez. "This case will have the potential of decriminalizing sexual contact with someone with HIV," defense attorney Kevin McDermott said.

As of early this year, there had been more than 900 arrests or prosecutions in at least 38 states and the military of HIV-positive people accused of exposing others to the disease, according to the Global Network of People Living with HIV. Air Force prosecutors have declined comment on the case. Gutierrez was a sergeant at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas in 2011 when he was stripped of his rank and sentenced to eight years behind bars.

In addition to aggravated assault, Gutierrez also was found guilty of violating an order to notify partners about his HIV status and to use condoms. He was also convicted of indecent acts and adultery. He has not been accused of actually infecting anyone with HIV. In his appeal, Gutierrez has challenged whether the risk to his sexual partners was high enough to constitute aggravated assault. He argues that laws covering exposure to the disease are outdated since the statistical probability of heterosexual transmission is low and medical advances have made the disease treatable.

"About 100 years ago, we used to have a lot of laws on the books that threw people in prison for having, syphilis because you couldn't cure it. Once they came up with a cure, a lot of those laws went along the wayside," McDermott said.

Yemen migrant boat carrying Ethiopians sinks killing 70

RED SEA: A boat carrying African migrants has sunk off Yemen's western coast, killing 70 people, reports BBC.

The boat, carrying mostly Ethiopian migrants, sank off Yemen's al-Makha port due to strong winds and rough waves, security officials said.

Tens of thousands attempt to cross the Red Sea into Yemen every year, often in rickety, overcrowded vessels. Hundreds have died making the journey.

Yemen is viewed by many migrants as a gateway to the Middle East or Europe. The latest sinking occurred on Sat-

urday, with reports of the incident emerging on Sunday.

The Red Sea crossing between the Horn of Africa and Yemen is one of the world's major migration routes, BBC Arab affairs editor Alan Johnston says.

Migrants dream of finding jobs and better lives in rich places like Saudi Arabia - but they are in the hands of unscrupulous people smugglers and, too often, never reach the Yemeni shore, our correspondent adds.

File photo: Illegal Somali and Ethiopian migrants wait to embark on boats on a voy-

age to Yemen on Shimbivale beach, 17 kms, east of Bosaso, Somalia, 7 September 2007 Many travel to Yemen in hope of finding better lives in the Middle East or Europe

In October, the UN refugee agency said that more than 200 people had died at sea in 2014 while attempting to reach Yemen.

"There have been frequent reports of mistreatment, abuse, rape and torture, and the increasingly cruel measures being adopted by smuggling rings seem to account for the increase in deaths at sea," the UN said at the time.



Tens of thousands make the dangerous journey every year.

Yahoo

US 'won't review' raids policy

US : The US will not be reviewing its operations to free Americans held by militants despite recent failures, says Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel. US journalist Luke Somers and South African teacher Pierre Korkie were killed by al-Qaeda in Yemen gunmen during a US-led operation on Saturday.

Mr Hagel defended the rescue attempt, saying such raids were risky but that there was no need for a policy review.

It was the third failed rescue attempt of a US hostage in the past six months. The family and friends of both men have criticised the armed raid.

Mr Korkie was due to be freed on Sunday according to

Gift of the Givers, a charity working with the South African, who said the US rescue attempt had "destroyed everything". The US says the raid in southern Yemen was launched because intelligence suggested there was an immediate threat to Mr Somers's life.

It came three days after militants released a video of the UK-born photojournalist, saying he would be killed within 72 hours if unspecified demands were not met.

But Penny Bearman, his stepmother, told The Times newspaper that Mr Somers "would have given support to the ongoing discussions [to secure his release] in Yemen rather than the conflict

approach". She said there had been "threats before that had not been carried out," adding that his father, Michael, was angry because if "there had not been a rescue attempt he would still be alive".

US special forces had already sought to rescue Mr Somers in November. They also attempted to free US journalist James Foley in Syria, weeks before he was beheaded by Islamic State militants in August.

US President Barack Obama called the murder of Mr Somers "barbaric" and said he had authorised the operation because information "indicated that Luke's life was in imminent danger".



Militants posted a video of UK-born photojournalist Luke Somers last week threatening to kill him. BBC

Spot Light News

African migrant boat capsizes off Yemen, 70 dead

SANAA: Yemeni security officials say a boat carrying African migrants has capsized off the country's western coast, killing 70, reports AP.

They say most of the migrants were from Ethiopia, and the small boat sank Sunday due to high winds and waves in the Red Sea. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

3 explosions near homes of Shiite leaders in Sanaa

SANAA: Yemeni security officials say three explosive devices have blown up outside the houses of Shiite rebel leaders in the capital Sanaa, reports AP. The officials said the explosions early Monday damaged several houses and injured eight people whose identities have not been disclosed.

Five other explosive devices in Sanaa have been dismantled, the officials said on condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to brief the media.

Canadian Embassy in Egypt closes over security

CAIRO: The Canadian Embassy in Cairo has closed over security concerns, a day after the British Embassy suspended its services over safety worries, reports AP. The Canadian Embassy announced its closure through a message on its main telephone number Monday. An Egyptian security official told The Associated Press that Canadians asked for all roads around the embassy shut down and more security. He said they would increase security, but the roads couldn't close.

3 dead in crash after vehicle strikes, kills bear

MIAMI: A vehicle struck and killed a black bear on a road in Florida, and three people from another vehicle who got out to help were struck and killed by a third vehicle, police said. Several others were reported injured, reports AP. Seminole Police Department spokesman Gary Bitner told The Associated Press that Sunday's events apparently happened quickly. He said four people were injured so severely that they were taken by helicopter to a hospital.

Tunisia to hold 2nd round of presidential vote on Dec 21

TUNIS: Moncef Marzouki and Beji Caid Essebsi will face off on December 21 in Tunisia's second round of presidential voting to decide who leads the nation that sparked the Arab Spring.

"Voting will take place on December 21," the head of the ISIE electoral organising body, Chafik Sarsar, told a news conference on Monday.

Ugandans wont let me retire, veteran president says

KAMPALA: Uganda's veteran President Yoweri Museveni has said the people don't want him to retire but that he doesn't "need power", ahead of a highly anticipated ruling party conference next week.

Museveni, aged 70 and Uganda's leader since 1986, has already been chosen as the ruling National Resistance Movement's (NRM) candidate for presidential elections due in 2016, but there have been increasing murmurs of discontent within some sections of the party.



Photo Credit : Riad Mashrek

Chairman of TBT visits set of ‘Ratir Jatri’

Entertainment Desk

The shooting of Habibul Islam Habib's film 'Ratir Jatri' began in the city. Recently the chairman of The Bangladesh Today, Jobaer Alam accepting the director's invitation visited the shooting spot of the film, and conveyed his best wishes.

Talking about the film the director told TBT, 'the story of the film is mainly of a night.

The lead actress comes to the capital city to pursue her higher education. She reaches the city late at night and had to face many problems soon after. In the film the lead character is seen recalling several memories and then comes back

to reality.' The director also sought the government's assistance to help send the message of the film to people of all classes. The main character of the film is being played by Moushumi. Other casts includes Anisul Rahman Milon, A T M Shamsuzzaman, Sonia Hossain and Marjuk Rasel. The film is expected to be released by 2015.

Anushka Sharma: I didn't become an overnight star

Entertainment Desk

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, who entered filmdom with Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi starring the King of romance Shah Rukh Khan, recently revealed in an interview about her struggling days with films and popularity.

Anushka is hot favourite of every publication these days, thanks to her upcoming film PK and her relationship with Virat Kohli. But it was not always the same.

In an interview with a leading tabloid, Anushka said, "While we were promoting our movie, no one was willing to interview me. Before Band Baajaa Baaraat released, I had made a bucket list of directors I wanted to work with. I firmly believe that the film is as good as the director. I remained very patient. Since I had no plans of becoming an actor, I had no game plan in mind as well. I just did what I felt was right. Even after my first film, I didn't become an overnight star like Ranbir (Kapoor), Ranveer (Singh) or Deepika (Padukone). No one put me on the covers of magazines and called me the next big thing. No one said that 'she is the one to look out for'".



Marilyn Monroe's love letter from ex-hubby fetches \$78K at auction

Entertainment Desk

Joe DiMaggio's love letter to Marilyn Monroe has been sold for 78,000 dollars at a recent auction, it has been revealed.

Julien's Auctions announced that one letter from her ex-husband DiMaggio, the Yankee great, sold for more than 78,000 dollars, the Independent reported.

Another letter from other husband Arthur Miller fetched nearly 44,000 dollars at the same auction that was held as a part of its Icons and Idols series. auction, it has been revealed.

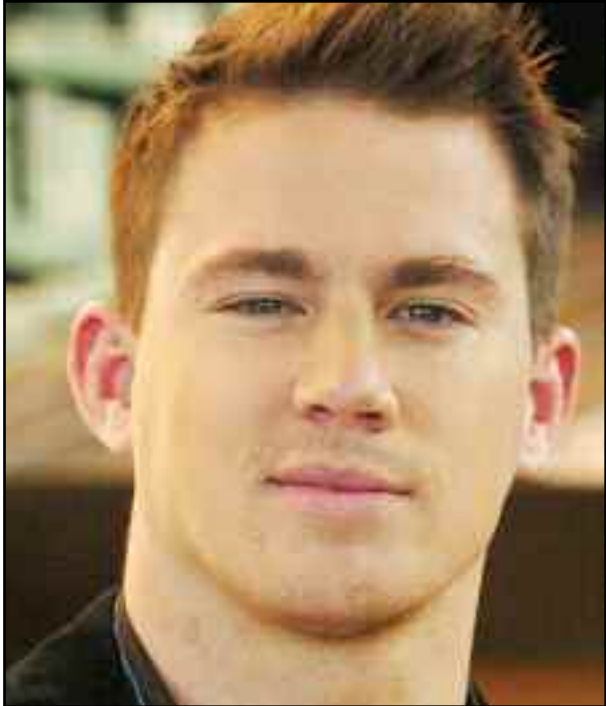


Channing Tatum to take a break from Hollywood

Entertainment Desk

'22 Jump Street' star Channing Tatum is reportedly planning to take a break from Hollywood in 2015.

The 34-year-old actor is planning to take fewer projects next year as he wants to spend time with his wife Jenna



Dewan and their 18-month-old daughter Everly, reported Contactmusic. "Channing realises that burning the candle at both ends has been unhealthy, and he's ready to make changes." He told Jenna that after this next wave of projects, he's taking at least a six-month break. He wants to be able to read Everly bedtime stories, tuck her in at night, then wake up and make her pancakes," said a source. Tatum, recently admitted that if his wife's show 'Witches of East End' was cancelled then they would consider having another baby.



Kareena Kapoor to do a cameo in Varun Dhawan's Badlapur

Entertainment Desk

Kareena Kapoor Khan who was last seen in SinghamReturns is making her special appearance in Varun Dhawan's Badlapur.

According to reports, Bebo will not be opposite Varun Dhawan as a heroine but has an interesting chunk that will add twist to the plot of the film.

This comes as a surprise since Kareena had once gone

on record during a press conference and said that she would never do a movie with Varun Dhawan, since he's quite young.

We think, Kareena also chose this role cos she's familiar with Sriram Raghavan, the director of the film too. She worked with him during Agent Vinod.

This is the first time Kareena will be working with Mr. Dhawan. Bebo Khan will also be soon seen in a full fledged role in Bajrangi Bhaijaan with Salman Khan.

Horoscope

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

Today, more than ever, you will yearn to escape the daily routine, Aries. You thirst for new sights and sounds, new faces and new places, but you know you must juggle your desires with professional and domestic obligations. It isn't always easy. Trust your imagination to find a way to settle this conflict.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

You're finally on the mend, Taurus. The minor ailments that may have dragged you down lately are beginning to disappear. You're about to regain all of your physical energy. If you overindulge, your energy level is likely to plummet once again. If nothing else, you will have learned a valuable lesson about the importance of moderation, especially now. Don't overdo it!

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Do you feel a little under the weather today, Gemini? It's quite possible, considering all the emotional turmoil you've been through lately. It takes time to recover from such storms. As you know, the work itself isn't what gets you down. It's worry about the future that drains your energy. Give yourself a break today. Take some time for rest and recuperation.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

There is some likelihood that the mood at home is fraught with tension. Did you have some intellectual disagreement? In any case, it looks as though your self-confidence is stronger than ever right now. Go ahead and express any complaints or opinions you may have been keeping to yourself, Cancer. But try and do it gently, especially where family is concerned.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

It seems that your sensitivity is in slight conflict with your actions, Leo. You continue to go through the daily motions and do what you planned on doing, but it seems as though your heart is no longer in it. Don't ask why. It's just that you've been working hard and thinking hard lately. You've reached your limit and it's time to rest.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

You may have been spending or saving too much money, Virgo. It's clear that a rebalancing is in order if you're to find pleasure rather than frustration. It's a curious phenomenon, as though you've lost contact with your body. Yet it's in your body where you will ultimately find your balance. You certainly won't find it in your head!

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

Perhaps you've been impatiently waiting for the moment to jump into new adventures after your meditation during the last few months. Know that the moment has almost arrived! You now have the strategy, objective, and means at your disposal to succeed. Just a bit more work remains to be done. Gather your strength and get ready to take action with renewed vigor. Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) If you find yourself tired and irritable at the moment, Scorpio, you should know that this is normal. You may have had a few weeks that were a little too studios. Would you like to continue on the same path? Be careful that your ambitions don't lead you to serious physical exhaustion, Scorpio. You'll be even more frustrated if you get sick. So be wise and take care of your basic needs.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

This is going to be a good moment to look elsewhere, Sagittarius. You should do just as the artist does when he has worked too long on a painting, which is to take a step back. You need to see people, travel, go to the theater, and clear your head. This is never easy for you, but do it anyway. Afterwards you'll think it was the best thing for you. Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) This is the right moment to extricate yourself from relationships that have seen their day, Capricorn. This won't be easy, but you must. In your professional and private lives, you're too hesitant to get out of distasteful situations or obligations. You're afraid of hurting people or making them mad. But in the end, you're hurting yourself. Give more weight to your own needs and follow your own path.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

You took off like a bullet a few days ago, making great progress in a short amount of time. Now you're grappling with doubts that are undermining all of your energy. Reflecting on the events of the past few days, it's obvious that you were somewhat reckless in your headlong pursuit of your goals. Don't give up, Aquarius. Rethink your strategy. Pisces (February 19 - March 20) There is some likelihood that you will be haunted by thoughts of your love life today, Pisces. Perhaps you're intrigued by the idea of exploring certain secret realms of your relationship, yet you aren't sure how to communicate this to your mate. Perhaps you're still testing the waters, waiting until you know how you feel. In any case, you might make a decision to proceed today.



Lionel Messi's hat-trick sparked Barcelona into life as they came from behind to thrash Espanyol 5-1 in the Catalan derby.

Lionel Messi's hat-trick sees Barcelona come from behind to thrash Espanyol

Sports Desk
A day after Cristiano Ronaldo set a new Primera Division record for hat-tricks with 23, Messi grabbed one of his own to move up to 21 himself and secure local bragging rights for Barca in Catalonia. Messi came to the rescue on the stroke of half-time to cancel out Sergio Garcia's opener for Espanyol, before adding his second five minutes later. Gerard Pique made it three goals in eight minutes to put Barca firmly in control before Pedro added gloss to the scoreline and Messi turned it into a rout. The win means that Barca, who also

saw Real Madrid equal their record of 18 consecutive wins after their 3-0 triumph over Celta Vigo on Saturday, remain two points behind Los Blancos at the top of La Liga. Barca boss Luis Enrique, taking the helm for the first time in a Catalan derby, rested Andres Iniesta after his Copa del Rey excursions in midweek but otherwise selected a full-strength side. It was the hosts, who have not lost to Espanyol at the Nou Camp for five years, who took control early on. Ivan Rakitic, Sergio Busquets and Xavi were passing it round confidently and Neymar looked lively, but the most they

conjured was a half-hearted penalty appeal when Xavi took a tumble. But Espanyol, who are still searching for their first win away from home this season, silenced the Barca crowd with a stunning counter-attack in the 13th minute. Felipe Caicedo caught Busquets dallying in possession near the halfway line, before Barcelona academy graduate Garcia picked up the loose ball and raced into space down the right flank. As Pique backed off, the 31-year-old forward cut into the box and unleashed a powerful low drive that gave Barca keeper Claudio Bravo no chance.

Gazi omitted, Nasir makes list of 30 for World Cup probables

Sports Desk
Offspinner Sohag Gazi, who was recently suspended from bowling in international cricket due to an illegal action, has been left out of Bangladesh's 30-member, preliminary squad for the World Cup. Gazi has been undergoing remedial work on his action, since his suspension in October and has also played domestic matches. He recently picked up a five-for for Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club in the Dhaka Premier Division. With Gazi out, the Bangladesh selectors picked five specialist spinners including Abdur Razzak, who has recovered from a hamstring injury. Razzak last played an international game in August. Among the 10 pace bowlers, three are allrounders - Ziaur Rahman, Muktar Ali and Soumya Sarkar. Nasir Hossain, who was not picked for the home series against Zimbabwe due to poor form, has been included in the preliminary squad, while Shamsur Rahman, who averaged below ten in the Test series, is also in contention for a World Cup spot. Mohammad Mithun and youngster Litton Das

have been picked as back-up wicketkeepers for Mushfikur Rahim, a pattern that chief selector Faruque Ahmed said was followed in all departments in the squad. "I believe we have picked the strongest 30 available to us at the moment," Faruque said. "We have concentrated on creating back-ups for every position because it will be a long tournament. We have a good balance in the side with all areas covered. Most of the players who have been in or around the national team during the last six or seven months have been given a chance. There is a noticeable blend of youth and experience. "The conditions in Australia and New Zealand will be a challenge for all the subcontinental teams, including Bangladesh. We cannot create those conditions here and that's why we have selected players based on performances in competitions they have appeared in and our intuition."



Nasir Hossain was dropped for the home series against Zimbabwe but has been included in the list of 30 probables.



Ronnie O'Sullivan beats Judd Trump in the 2014 Coral UK Championship.

Snooker: Ronnie O'Sullivan beats Judd Trump 10-9 in dramatic UK Championship final

Sports Desk
Ronnie O'Sullivan fended off a brilliant Judd Trump comeback to win a dramatic Coral UK Championship by a frame and complete a stellar 2014. A 10-9 victory gave 39-year-old O'Sullivan, who came into the tournament at York's Barbican Centre with a broken ankle, his fifth UK title, to go with his five World Championship trophies and five Masters crowns. He wins £150,000, to go with the £44,000 he pocketed for Thursday's brilliant 147 break against Matt Selt. One blip in O'Sullivan's near-perfect 12 months came with defeat to Mark Selby in the World Championship final but, in capturing the Masters, Welsh Open, Champion of Champions and now this latest triumph, he has shown he is only getting better with age. Trump was disappointing for a large part of his second UK final, three years after beating Mark Allen in the same venue to carry off the silverware. But the 25-year-old from Bristol found his potting prowess when on the brink of defeat at 9-4 adrift, and a jaw-dropping recovery saw him force the deciding frame. Trump treated an enthralled audience to 90 minutes of mid-evening drama as he dashed off back-to-back centuries followed by breaks of 86 and 67 to reduce the best-of-19 contest to a single-frame shoot-out. If either man was nervy heading into the final frame, it should have been O'Sullivan, but after inching in front early on he rattled in a clinching 51. Trump, needing snookers, decided he had seen enough and offered O'Sullivan his hand, the pair sharing a warm embrace. O'Sullivan said: "I can't believe I've won it. I don't want to be playing him in every final. I feel like retiring. "He's a tough opponent, he's very dynamic and very explosive. He's got so much cue power, he can pot like you wouldn't believe. He's fearless, and he's in your face the whole time, and if you go off the boil he's on you."

News in Brief



Combine endeavor to win more games: Razzak

Ad Deen Sojeeb
Bangladeshi test captain Mushfikur Rahim and ODI captain Mashrafi bin Mortuza has played a great role against Zimbabwe before 2015 ODI World Cup at the Bashundhara Cement Series in Bangladesh said Abdur Razzak, the most experienced player of Bangladesh cricket team. Razzak on a one-to-one interview taken by the Sports Reporter of The Bangladesh Today said the series against Zimbabwe was very positive for us, our overall team performance was noticeable and it is always a great feeling to win a series because it lifts the team spirit. "It's a great win for us but we are not consistent, we have to try win more games against stronger opponents."



Abbott named in NSW squad

Sports Desk
Sean Abbott has been named in the New South Wales squad for their Sheffield Shield clash with Queensland on Tuesday. The fast bowler is part of a 12-man squad for the four-day game at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the same venue where his ill-fated bouncer struck Phillip Hughes on the neck on November 25 - Hughes died in hospital two days later. There had been doubts cast over Abbott's short and long-term future in the sport, with pundits suggesting the tragic accident could be too much for him to overcome. But captain Moises Henriques said over the weekend that Abbott had reacted well since attending Hughes' funeral last week, and he was taking comfort from the support received from players and fans around the world.

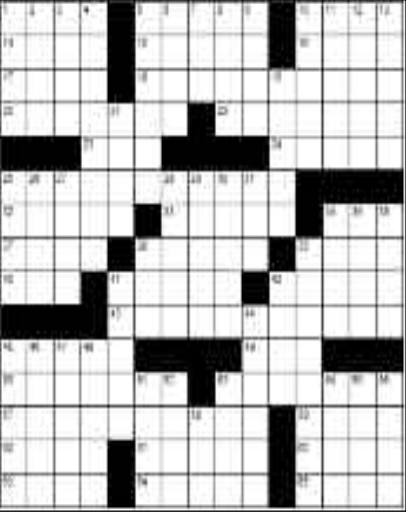


Mourinho positive on Costa

Sports Desk
Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho is confident Diego Costa will start scoring again when the striker's fitness improves. The Spain international scored seven goals in his first four Chelsea appearances following his arrival from Atletico Madrid in the summer. But Costa has netted only twice in his last seven games, having been hampered by hamstring problems. And the Spain international has been overtaken as the Premier League's leading scorer by Sergio Aguero of Manchester City. Mourinho's men suffered their first defeat of the season at Newcastle on Saturday, with Costa failing to find the net for the third game in a row, but the Chelsea boss is backing the player to come good.

Crosswords

Quiz No-578



Answers of the Quiz No-579



DOWN

1. Hubs 2. "Oh my!" 3. Storage cylinder 4. A variant of baseball 5. Influenza (archaic) 6. Connects two points 7. And so forth 8. Ale 9. Being 10. Chopin composition 11. Condemns 12. Eskimo 13. Exams 19. A Eurasian aromatic herb 21. Klutz's cry 25. Type of sword 26. Oceans 27. Automobiles 28. Encounters 29. Master of ceremonies 30. Approaches 31. Attempt 34. If not 35. Anagram of "Loot" 36. Asken 38. Apply gently 39. An unintentional disclosure 41. Jeweler's glass 42. Italian for "Wine" 44. Braze 45. Offspring 46. Tortilla chip 47. Cambered 48. Fees for buses 51. Anagram of "Dome" 52. Rubber wheel 53. Mend (archaic) 54. Hefty volume 55. Wicked 56. Trade 58. Make lace

ACROSS

1. Young girl 5. Parish land 10. Modify 14. Hodgepodge 15. Rituals 16. Anagram of "Note" 17. Young cow 18. Resembling incest 20. Variant of an element 22. Allow in again 23. Hit on the head 24. Homes for birds 25. They're found in old timepieces 32. Knells 33. Manicurist's board 34. Estimated time of arrival 37. Nobleman 38. Rot 39. Radiate 40. S 41. Not earlier 42. Eyeshade 43. Compulsively 45. Foul-up 49. Half of a pair 50. Protective wall 53. Distended 57. Recognized 59. Interlaced 60. "Whoopee!" 61. Give a speech 62. Dogfish 63. Gestures of assent 64. Gauge 65. Scream



Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Zha Kaili, Managing Director of HM Zipper (BD) Co. Ltd., ink the deal on behalf of their respective organizations.

China imports fall and export growth slows in November

BEIJING: China's stuttering economy suffered another blow in November as export growth slowed sharply and imports surprisingly contracted, government data showed Today, resulting in a record monthly trade surplus, reports AFP/BSS.

Exports from the world's second-largest economy expanded 4.7 percent year-on-year to \$211.66 billion in November, while imports dropped 6.7 percent to \$157.19 billion, the General Administration of Customs said. The surplus soared 61.4 percent to a record \$54.47 billion in the month, Customs said, beating August's previous record of \$49.8 billion. Median forecasts had been for exports to increase 8.0 percent and imports to rise 3.9 percent, according to a survey of 16 economists

by Dow Jones Newswires. The latest figures come as China is assailed by industrial weakness, falling property prices and high corporate and local government debt burdens, prompting the central bank last month to cut benchmark interest rates for the first time in more than two years. Gross domestic product (GDP) grew an annual 7.3 percent in the third quarter, the slowest since the height of the global financial crisis in early 2009. The sharp slowdown in export growth means there is a risk growth this year will come in below 7.5 percent "as both domestic and external demand weakened", ANZ economists Liu Li-Gang and Zhou Hao said in a report reacting to the data. On imports, they added, "the large decline was way out of

our expectation". Lu Ting and Sylvia Sheng at Bank of America Merrill Lynch pointed to slumping oil and commodity prices as the driver, adding: "We estimate China could save around \$72 billion in oil imports in 2015."

China's official GDP growth target for 2014 is "about 7.5 percent", though officials including Premier Li Keqiang have said the figure is not set in stone and could come in below that number.

This week's annual Central Economic Work Conference will be closely watched for clues as to this year's goal, although its conclusions will probably not be formally unveiled until March.

Economists increasingly expect a lowering of the target to about seven percent owing to the downward pressures as well as a commitment.

Chinese Zipper Manufacturing Plant to Invest US\$ 8 M in Mongla EPZ

Business Desk

Chinese company HM Zipper (BD) Co. Limited is going to set-up a zipper manufacturing industry in Mongla Export Processing Zone, reports in a press release.

This 100% foreign owned company will invest US\$ 8 million for setting up their plant with annual production of 3480 tons of zipper, 2850 tons of polyester sewing thread and 1900 tons of embroidery thread. Zipper (BD) Co. Ltd, will create employment opportunity for 720 Bangladesh nationals. These accessories will be used specially for luggage and bags.

An agreement to this effect in between Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and HM Zipper (BD) Co. Ltd. at BEPZA Complex in Dhaka yesterday (08-12-2014). Sayed Nurul Islam, Member (Investment Promotion) of BEPZA and Zha Kaili, Managing Director of HM Zipper (BD) Co. Ltd., inked the deal on behalf of their respective organizations.

Major General Mohd. Habibur Rahman Khan, ndc, psc, Executive Chairman, Md. Abdur Rahman, member (Engineering), AKM Maahbubur Rahman member (Finance) Md. Shawkat Nabi, Secretary, AZM AZM Azizur Rahman, General Manager (Investment Promotion) and Nazma Binte Alamgir, General Manager (Public Relations) of BEPZA were present at the signing ceremony.

BP loses latest US oil spill appeal

US : The US Supreme Court has rejected oil giant BP's legal challenge to a compensation deal over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, reports BBC.

It means BP will have to make the payments that stem from the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig.

BP argued that the deal allowed some companies to receive compensation payments, despite being unable to trace their losses to the disaster. BP agreed to the deal in 2012, but argues it has been misinterpreted. A US judge has ruled BP was "grossly negligent" in the lead-up to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The ruling could potentially cost BP billions more in compensation payments.

The New Orleans judge Carl Barbier also found BP subcontractors Transocean and Halliburton "negligent".

The 2010 oil spill was the worst in US history, and BP has set aside \$43bn (£26bn) to cover fines, legal settlements, and clean-up costs. BP said in a statement that it "strongly disagrees" with the ruling and that it would appeal to a higher court.

"The law is clear that proving gross negligence is a very high bar that was not met in this case," said the firm. Shares in BP fell 6% after the ruling was announced.

Judge Barbier said BP should shoulder 67% of the blame for the 2010 spill, with drilling rig owner Transocean responsible for 30% and cement firm Halliburton responsible for 3%. He ruled that BP will be "subject to enhanced civil penalties" due to its "gross negligence" and "wilful misconduct".

The ruling could quadruple the civil penalties that BP must pay as a result of the spill to an estimated \$18bn.

Oil prices down after lacklustre Chinese trade data

SINGAPORE: Crude hit fresh five-year-lows yesterday following another weak batch of trade data out of China, while prices were also pressured by the strengthening dollar, reports AFP/BSS.

US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for January delivery was down 81 cents at \$65.03 in late-morning trade. Brent crude slipped 82 cents to \$68.25.

WTI is sitting at its lowest point since July 2009 and Brent is at lows not seen since October 2009, with the contract continuing to be hurt by OPEC's decision last month to maintain output despite a global supply glut.

"Investors are casting their eye on the Chinese trade data at the moment... weakness could mean pressure on Brent," said David Lennox, resource analyst at Fat Prophets in Sydney.

China said Monday that exports grew just 4.7 percent year-on-year to \$211.66 billion in November while imports dropped 6.7 percent to \$157.19 billion.

Analysts had expected exports to grow 8.0 percent and imports to expand 3.9 percent.

Falling commodity prices, including oil,

which has slumped by about 40 percent since June, "will have weighed on the value of commodity imports", research house Capital Economics said in a note.

"The sharp fall (in Chinese imports) also hints at a further cooling of domestic demand," it said.

Trade figures out of China, the world's top energy consumer, are closely watched for their impact on crude prices, especially the more internationally leveraged Brent contract.

The latest figures come as China struggles with weakness in its industrial and financial sectors, prompting the country's central bank last month to cut benchmark interest rates for the first time in more than two years.

Oil prices have also been hit by a pick-up in the dollar, which surged Friday in reaction to figures showing the US economy created 321,000 jobs in November, its best monthly performance in nearly three years.

The dollar was at 121.55 yen on Monday compared with 121.44 yen in New York Friday afternoon.



A deal has been signed between the S Sinopec Petroleum Engineering Cooperation, China (SPEC), Consortium of Zicom Equipment PTE Ltd (ZEPL), China and Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL) construct 2 Glycol De-Hydration Type Gas Process Plant in two different locations to extract, maintain and control the resources under the finance of Asia Development Bank on December 1st, 2014.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Directorate General of Family Planning IEM Unit B, Kewran Bazar, Dhaka	
Invitation for EOI	
Memo: DGFP/EM/TV SPOT/2014/2225/1003 Date: 08/12/14	
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
2. Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning
3. Procuring Entity Name	Director IEM & Line Director IEC
4. Procuring Entity Code	None
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6. Expression of interest for selection of	Consulting firm/Agency for TV spot Production on Maternal and Neonatal health Nutrition, Breast Feeding and 3 Danger sign and 3 Delay and Birth Planning and telecasting 275 times on BTV & 8 Private TV Channels
7. EOI Ref. No.	DGFP/EM/TV SPOT/2014/2225/1003
8. Date	08/12/2014
KEY INFORMATION	
9. Procurement Method	SBBO
FUNDING INFORMATION	
10. Budget and Source of Fund	RPA (GOB)
11. Development partner	IDA
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12. Programme Code	5.270.5310
13. Programme Name	Information, Education & Communication (IEC) under HFNSDP
14. EOI Closing Date & Time	24/12/14 at 4.00 PM
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT FIRMS	
15. Brief description of Assignment	TV spot Production on Maternal and Neonatal health Nutrition, Breast Feeding and 3 Danger sign and 3 Delay and Birth Planning and telecasting 275 times on BTV & 8 Private TV Channels
17. Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Req'd	The applicant shall have to be submitted with its proposal the following documents: 1. Category of the firm: Advertising firm/Production House 2. Detailed Brief description of the firm 3. Trade License valid up to 2014-2015 4. VAT registration certificate 5. Tax clearance certificate for the year 2014-2015 6. Three (3) years satisfactory completion certificate(s) in general activities (Certificate required including contact number & addresses) 7. Two (2) years' specific experience in the relevant activities with completion certificate 8. Audited financial statements for the last Fiscal year prepared by the trusted auditors 9. List of major clients working with at present with contact reference (mailing address, land phone, cell phone) 10. Bank Solvency certificate of Tk. 30.00 lacs or more facility up to Tk. 30.00 lacs 11. Name of centre key personnel with CV who will involved with the assignment duly signed by the respective personnel and authority 12. Relevant documents in favor of your logistical and organizational strength of the firm.
18. Other Details (if applicable)	None
19. Association with Foreign Firm in	N/A
20. Phasing of services	N/A
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
21. Name of office inviting EOI	Dr. AM. Javed Uddin
22. Designation of official inviting EOI	Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC, Directorate General of Family Planning
23. Address of official inviting EOI	IEM Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning, 1st floor, B, Kewran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
24. Contact Details of Official inviting EOI	Phone: 9146535, Fax: 98151074, Email: iemdgfp@gmail.com
25. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOI without knowing any reason.	



Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin
Joint Secretary
Director, IEM & Line Director, IEC
Directorate General of Family Planning
B, Kewran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

GD-1749/14 (10x4)

OFFICE OF THE AKKELPUR MUNICIPALITY DISTRICT: JOYPUHAT					
Memo no: AM/Eng-dept/2014/356			Date: 07.12.14		
Invitation for Tender (IFT) Open Tender Method(OTM) Tender Notice No: 04/2014-2015 Name of Project : Important Urban Infrastructure Development project (IUIDP)					
Sealed Tender are hereby invited from the eligible tenders as defined in the tender documents for the mentioned works as per terms and conditioned stated below.					
Sl No	Packag e No	Name of Scheme	Tender Security	Time of Completion of works (days)	Price of Document (Tk)
01	02	03	04	05	06
01	Akkel-R1	Improvement of bc road from i) Akkelpur Uttarpara Korban master to the house of Badsha via Sobor house (ch.00-430m) CC road from ii) West Hasthaboshonthopur Boxso more to the house of Laibul (Ch.00-180m) iii) Beharpur the house Sheraj member to the house of Ebarot (Ch.00-240m)	90,000.00	120	3600.00
02	Akkel-R2	Improvement of bc road from i) Akkelpur Bogra to Makimpur (Ch.00-360m) ii) Keshobpur BC road to River Embankment (Ch.1400-1580m)	56,000.00	120	2500.00
03	Akkel-R3	Improvement of Cc road from i) The house o f Oviram to the Poultry fram (Ch.00-425m). ii) The house of Samad to the house of Depen (Ch.00-140)	55,000.00	120	2500.00
04	Akkel-R4	Improvement of CC road from i) Beharpur house of Motin to the house of Nasir (Ch.00-180m) ii) Hasthaboshonthopur the house of Narayan to the house of Norul (Ch.00-270m) iii) Santa masgram house of Daraj to the of Motior (Ch.00-100m)	54,000.00	120	2400.00
01. Date, time & place of per-tender meeting: 24/12/2014 at 12.00Am and Office of the undersigned. 02. Date, time & place of selling tender document : 01/01/2015 up to Office time a) The project Director. IUIDP, Dhaka. b) Deputy Director of Local Government, Joupurhat. c) Office of the undersigned. 03. Date, time & place of receiving tender document : 04/01/2015. Up to 1.00 Pm a) Office of the undersigned. 04. Date, time & place of opening tender :04/01/2015 Up to 2.00 pm and Office of the undersigned. 05. The tender shall be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by the tender security specified in mentioned above. The authority reverses the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders within assigning any reason whatsoever. Interested Tenderer may obtain further information from the undersigned and purchase the tender documents in cash (Non-Refundable) from the place mentioned above. The Tenderer or their Authorized representatives are allowed to attend the opening of tender.					
Md. Fazlul Haque (Add Charge) Assistant Engineer Akkelpur Municipality					
GD-1750/14 (10x3)					

Prime Minister extends support to ailing artistes

DHAKA : Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday provided financial support to a number of ailing senior and renowned cultural personalities of the country, reports UNB.

The recipients are ailing film actor Abdus Samad, popularly known as Tele Samad, film director Shahidul Islam Khokan, film actor Abdus Sattar who acted in colour film Rangin Rupban, and flute player Basudev Das.

Sheikh Hasina handed over cheques in the form of family savings certificates amounting to Tk 20 lakh to each of the recipients at her official residence Ganabhaban.

While talking to the renowned actors and artistes of the country, the Prime Minister said she came to know about their problems from her younger sister Sheikh Rehana who had collected the

information from national dailies.

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister, the ailing cultural personalities thanked her for extending support during their bad times.

Tele Samad in an emotion-choked voice said throughout his career he had strived to give pleasure to people but now he is seriously sick.

In reply, the Prime Minister mentioned that the government has some responsibility for the ailing cultural personalities who gave pleasure to general people through their performance.

Sheikh Hasina also mentioned a number of dialogues of actor Tele Samad like "Darjiling, Darjiling".

Basudev Das said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman gave the National Flag to his daughter Sheikh Hasina and it is now her responsibility to protect it and uphold the dignity of the nation.

Abdus Sattar with tears in his eyes said he acted in various films including Rangin Rupban and also made a film on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Today, he feels proud that the daughter of Bangabandhu came forward with the financial assistance for him, Abdus Sattar said.

Joya Chowdhury - wife of ailing film director Shahidul Islam Khokan briefed the Prime Minister about the physical condition of her husband.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary AKM Shameem Chowdhuri and PM's Special Assistant Mahbubul Hoque Shakil were, among others, present.

Woman killed in Rangamati gunfight

RANGAMATI : A woman was killed and a man injured during a gunfight between two rival groups at Ghagra Noadam village in Kaukhali upazila on Monday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Kalabi Chakma, 30, a resident of the area while the injured was identified as Haridhar Chakma, 45.

Nilu Kanti Barua, officer-in-charge of Kaukhali Police Station, said a gunfight took place between the two rival groups of the area over establishing supremacy around 10:15 am.

Bhutan 1st country to recognize BD: FS

DHAKA : Bhutan was the first country which had recognized independence of Bangladesh in 1971 and there should not be any confusion, said Foreign Secretary M Shahidul Haque here on Monday, reports UNB.

"According to the information we have, both India and Bhutan recognized Bangladesh on December 6 (in 1971) but Bhutan did it first," he told the diplomatic correspondents at the Foreign Ministry.

During the official talks with Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister Shaekh Hasina recalled with

gratitude Bhutan's invaluable support to Bangladesh's War of Liberation, according to a joint statement issued on Monday.

Hasina also recalled that Bhutan was the first country to recognize Bangladesh on 6 December 1971.

The Bhutanese Prime Minister handed over a text of the wireless message to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that was sent on December 6, 1971 by the third King of Bhutan to the then acting President of Bangladesh conveying Bhutan's recognition of Bangladesh as a sovereign independent country.

Fake medicine factory sealed off in city; owner punished

DHAKA : A Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) mobile court here on Monday unearthed a fake medicine factory, sealed it off and punished its owner, reports UNB.

The mobile court, led by Rab Headquarters Executive Magistrate AHM Anwar Pasha, along with Rab-10 personnel conducted a drive at a house at Khilghar road in Kosaituli under Bangshal Police Station around 5pm.

During the drive, it was found that medicines of several famous brands were being manufactured at the factory using their levels. At that time, the elite force arrested factory owner Akbar Hossain Bhasani.

Later, Executive Magistrate Pasha sealed off the fake medicine factory, sentenced Bhasani to two years' simple imprisonment and fined him Tk 2 lakh, in default, to suffer three months more in jail.

The arrestee confessed to the mobile court that he had been producing fake medicines under the cover of famous brands for the last two years. Those medicines were used to be sold at Mitford Wholesale Medicine Market.

Assistant police super Sazzad of Rab-10 and Directorate General of Drug Administration representative Mahbub Hossain were present during the drive.

Germany signs 'Partnership for Sustainable Textiles'

Dhaka : German Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Hans-Joachim Fuchtel has said they have already invested 10 million euro in the 'Partnership for Sustainable Textiles' and promised additional funds of 6 million euro, reports UNB.

"We strongly believe that these good examples will be followed by many more soon," he said during a signing ceremony in the city, said a media release issued by German Embassy in Dhaka on Monday.

During his three-day visit to Bangladesh Fuchtel is promoting the 'Partnership for Sustainable Textiles', which aims at social, environmental and economic improvements in Bangladesh's ready-made garments (RMG) sector.

The Partnership was initiated by German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Dr Gerd Müller.

The Declaration of Accession on the 'Partnership for Sustainable Textiles' was signed by four

Bangladeshi RMG companies-DBL Group, Niagara Textiles Ltd, Saiham Knit Composite Ltd and JMS Holdings.

These companies, which have a combined annual turnover of 580 million euro and employ 35,000 workers, have already been collaborating with GIZ, the German development agency and KfW, the German development bank, for many years to improve their social and environmental standards.

During the time of cooperation with Bangladeshi RMG enterprises, about 100,000 workers, factory managers, owners and labour inspectors have been trained on safety standards in the RMG sector.

Fuchtel also introduced 'Labourline' - a labour dispute settlement helpline, which provide information on labour-related issues and address shortcomings in resolving labour disputes.

The helpline will support factory workers by settling disputes with owners and managers to ensure their rights.

Road to Victory

From page-1

cantonment and by-passed it for a more decisive assault on Dhaka.

Meanwhile, the New York Times in a dispatch from Jessore reported "Bengalis sing and dance in Jessore".

The story says that Bengalis were dancing and singing on the streets of Jessore as they welcomed the Mitra Bahini.

The report also says that the people there were shouting slogans like "Joi Bangla" and "Bangabandhu" Sheikh Mujib, (Bangabandhu) Sheikh Mujib".

The report added that thousands of people were helping the Mitra Bahini build makeshift pontoon bridges across rivers where the Pakistan army had destroyed the bridges while retreating.

Evidently the reporter is surprised as he writes" In a span of four hours the pontoon-bridge had been built with the help of thousands of villagers under the supervision of the army's engineering corps working, voluntarily."

The story also says of Pakistani atrocities before their flight.

It quotes a Bangladesh army officer from the war-field dispelling Pakistani claims that it was an "all-Indian affair".

The report ends by saying that the Mitra Bahini was preparing for an all-out assault on Khulna, some 30 miles south, where the Pakistan army had retreated to.

In another development, Pakistan's president, Yahya Khan told the US ambassador to Pakistan, Joseph Farland that the Pakistan army in the East was ready to surrender but that they would prefer a ceasefire.

In Washington D C, the US president's assistant for national security affairs, Henry Kissinger, tells the US president that the Indians (read Mitra Bahini) were 22 miles off Dhaka in the east. (He probably meant Narsinghdi which was liberated on December 8, 2014).

Kissinger also says that the Indian thrust would be from the east. (He was wrong.) Kissinger is at pains to explain to the president that the Indians should oversee the surrender, as it would mean less suffering for the Pakistani troops, minorities (Biharis) and the diplomatic corps.

If the Mukti Bahini takes over, it would mean a "lot of bloodshed", Kissinger says.

The UN Secretary General U Thant calls for a 24-hour cease-fire to repair the airports and evacuate the diplomatic personnel from Dhaka.

Pakistan's newly appointed deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Indian foreign minister, Swaran Singh, head for New York to attend the UN's general assembly meeting.

Meanwhile, Yahya informs the US ambassador to Pakistan that he has sworn in Nurul Amin, a Bengali, as prime minister but did not have time to swear in Bhutto, Amin's deputy, as he had to leave for New York.

Corruption creates

From page-1

considers the ACC a government institution, which is a matter of threat to democracy".

While talking about the remedies to the current situation of the country he added, "Good governance with regular accountability and the exemplary punishment of the culprits can reduce the branches of corruption in the country".

Referring to a recent report by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) about the ineffectiveness of the Anti-Corruption Commission, ACC chairman Md Shahabuddin said, "They work with foreign fund. How much of it do they spend behind research?"

While talking about the International corruption watchdog's transparency organization, TIB, he added that ACC would accept TIB's constructive criticism, but if the organization (TIB) ran motive-driven report against ACC then it would have a negative effect discouraging and undervaluing the activities of ACC in the society.

TIB placed a report against ACC saying

"largely ineffective" in investigating and preventing corruption in Bangladesh. It also said that during 2012, the commission submitted charge sheets of 588 cases but only around 57 cases were successfully prosecuted that year; most of the cases were political in nature".

Moreover, over the last decades, Biman faced a number of problems. Mismanagement and corruption has trickled out in recent times including mismanagement in ticket confirmation and reconfirmation, poor passenger service, corruption in purchasing spare parts, alleged corruption on aircraft lease, lack of planning with regard to scheduling, fleet planning, human resource management and so on.

Earlier on November 1, Bangladesh National Cricket Team expressed solidarity with a campaign of TI Bangladesh pronouncing 'Say No to Corruption' with the public commitment to fight against the backdrop of allegations of match fixing, illegal betting and leaking of cricket-related information.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAST)
BANGLADESH RAILWAY CRB, CHITTAGONG.

Invitation for Tenders

1	Mining/Division	Ministry of Railways
2	Agency	Bangladesh Railway
3	Procuring Entity Name	Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway
4	Procuring Entity District	Chittagong
5	Invitation for	Package-1: At CML-AXA section (Bridge No-281): Strengthening & re-painting of girders of bridge (size 4x40'-0" DT + 1x20'-0") Package-2: At CML-AXA section (Bridge No-272): Repairing & re-painting of girders of bridge (size 2x80'-0" ST + 1x40'-0" DT) Certificate: 23/2014-2015/VE(S)
6	Invitation Ref No	
7	Date	07-12-2014
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB (Revenue)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10	Tender Publication Date	15-12-2014
11	Tender Last Selling Date	30-12-2014
12		Date Time
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	31-12-2014 12:00 Hrs.
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	31-12-2014 12:30 Hrs.
15	Tender Validity Period	120 (One hundred twenty) days.
16	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address
- Selling Tender Document (Principal)		
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway CRB, Chittagong.		
- Selling Tender Document (Others)		
(i) Office of the Bridge Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chittagong. (ii) Office of the Divisional Engineer(S), Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.		
- Receiving Tender Document		
Chamber of the Executive Engineer/PSU-East, Office of the Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chittagong.		
- Opening Tender Document		
Chamber of the Executive Engineer/PSU-East, Office of the Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chittagong.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	As stated in the Tender Document.
18	Brief Description of Works	Package-1: At CML-AXA section (Bridge No-281): Strengthening & re-painting of girders of bridge (size 4x40'-0" DT + 1x20'-0") Package-2: At CML-AXA section (Bridge No-272): Repairing & re-painting of girders of bridge (size 2x80'-0" ST + 1x40'-0" DT)
19	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 1000/- (One thousand) only, for each package (Non refundable).
20	Tender Security	Package-1: Tk. 25,000/- (Twenty five thousand) only. Package-2: Tk. 25,000/- (Twenty five thousand) only. In the form of Pay order/Bank draft with MICR shall be submitted in favour of F&S/CA(East), Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong.
21	Time for Completion of the works	60 (Sixty) days for each package from the date of start of works.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Ahmed Ullah Miah
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Chief Engineer (East), Bangladesh Railway
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Central Railway Building (CRB), Chittagong.
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No-031-2669102 e-mail-cre@railway.gov.bd
26	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

এস (১৪) (৪০০)

9-12-2014
(Ahmed Ullah Miah)
Chief Engineer (East)
Bangladesh Railway
CRB, Chittagong.

GD-1745/14 (9x4)

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
BANGLADESH WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

পরিচালক কার্যালয়
৯৬/১ এম এম এন স্ট্রীট সেক্টর
মুন্সিগঞ্জ থানা, মুন্সিগঞ্জ
তারিখ: ০৭/১২/১৪
ই-মেইল: director_cpe@yahoocom

www.bwdb.gov.bd

Office of the Director
Contract and Procurement Cell
WAPDA Bhahni (4th floor)
Moujaul C/A, Dhaka-1000
Phone: 7126135
email: director_cpe@yahoocom

Invitation for e-Tender: 04/2014-15

Invitation Reference No.	Memo no. CPC/PPR/IA/PT-1/339 Date: 26/11/2014
e-Tender ID (from e-GP portal)	15313
Name of the Work	Supplying of 115 nos Scanner with accessories in the office of the Executive Engineers (Procuring Entity), the Superintending Engineers, the zonal Chief Engineers and the Regional Accounting Center (RAC) etc of BWDB in connection with PPR/PT-AP: BWDB/DLI Part during the FY 2014-15.

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to Banking hours on 23/12/2014.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

PANI-178/14-15
GD-1746/14 (5X3)

(M. Mahbubul Kabir)
Director
Contract & Procurement Cell
BWDB, Dhaka

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Brahmanbaria
Phone-59632
www.rhd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Brahmanbaria, for the procurement of :

Name of the works	Package No	Tender ID
Construction of Flexible Pavement with earth work at 6th km, RCC box culvert on I/C (2 x 6.00 m x 6.00 m x 7.32 m) at 8th km and Kilometer Post, Sign Board, Traffic Signs & Sign Post at different km of Brahmanbaria-Hoena road under Road Division, Brahmanbaria during the year 2014-2015.	26/e-gp/EE/RHD/Brahmanbaria / 2014-2015	15855

e-Tender details can be downloaded are from 08/12/2014 to 23/12/2014 & time 17:00 on e-GP system portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for pursue.

e-Tenders will be accepted only up to 23/12/2014 & time 15:30. Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately after 23/12/2014 & time 16:30.

Shyamul Kumar Bhattacharyya
06/12/14
(Shyamul Kumar Bhattacharyya)
ID No. 001035
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Brahmanbaria

GD-1744/14 (6x3)



In reaction to the death of Juba League leader Tajul, 35, while under treatment at a hospital on Monday, who was earlier attacked by Chhatra League activists of Sharsha, Jessore, Juba league activists lit fire to the Nabaron Bazaar upazila Chhatra League president Abdul Rohim Sardar and 4 of his associates homes.

Photo : Banglar Chokh

Injured Juba League worker dies

House of Upazila Chhatra League president set on fire, Jessore- Benapole highway blocked

DISTRICT CORRESPONDENT, JESSORE

Soon after the death of the Juba League worker Tojam, who was earlier injured in Sharsha, Jessore a chaotic situation broke out in the area. On receiving the news of his death other workers of Juba League set fire to the upazila Chhatra League President's house. The police later intervened to bring the situation under control.

According to local sources, a clash broke out between two groups of

Chhatra League and Juba League over an issue of mobile phone robbery. At a point into the clash the president of the Upazila Chhatra League attacked the Juba League activist leaving him severely injured. He was later admitted to the Jessore General Hospital and was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital soon after.

The Juba league activist succumbed to his injuries on Monday, which led to a protest by his fellow workers. The set fire to the house of

upazila chhatra league president and also blocked the Jessore-Benapole highway.

On receiving this news the local fire fighters reached the site to bring the fire under control.

On the other hand our Feni correspondent informs that another Juba League worker was shot dead reading his contribution on trying to control the drug dealing the area. He too succumbed to his injuries on Monday night at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

President for patronizing young, innovative researchers

DHAKA : President Abdul Hamid on Monday underscored the need for identifying the young and innovative researchers for the welfare of the country, reports UNB.

"We need to patronize the young and innovative researchers in different fields so that they can contribute for the development of the country," he said when a delegation of Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) made a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, the delegation apprised the President of the activities of the association.

The delegation members said scientists need to be given patronization so that they can carry out research properly for the development of the country, President's press secretary Ihsanul Karim told UNB after the meeting.

Sirajganj-3 new MP Amzad Hossain takes oath

DHAKA : Newly elected Member of Parliament (MP) from Sirajganj-3 (Raiganj-Tarash) constituency Gazi Amzad Hossain Milon was sworn in on Monday, reports UNB.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath to the Awami League MP at a simple ceremony at her Jatiya Sangsad office, said a PID handout.

On November 30 last, Amzad Milon was elected uncontested in the by-polls, slated for December 23, as the nomination paper of his lone rival independent candidate Akhtarul Islam was cancelled by the returning officer during scrutiny.

Qatar wants to open its office in BD

DHAKA : Qatar has proposed to open an office in Bangladesh to boost its export, especially urea fertilizer, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and petrochemical products, reports UNB.

Qatar Ambassador in Dhaka Abdullah Abdul Aziz Al Mana came up with the proposal when he met Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu at the latter's office on Monday.

The envoy said new investment will come for Bangladesh's industrialisation apart from boosting bilateral trade if the office is opened.

HC stays Faridpur mayor's suspension order

DHAKA : The High Court on Monday stayed for six months the order of the LGRD Ministry suspending Faridpur municipality mayor Sheikh Mahatab Ali Methu, reports UNB.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks as to why the suspension order should not be declared illegal.

Following a writ petition filed by Methu, an HC bench comprising Justice Naima Haider and Justice M Jahangir Hossain came up with the stay order and the rule.

The local government secretary, its deputy secretary who signed the suspension order, the deputy commissioner and police super of Faridpur and Faridpur municipality have been made respondents to the rule.

The Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry on

Sunday issued an order suspending the mayor on corruption charges.

Following a no-confidence motion brought against him by Faridpur municipality councillors on October 28, an investigation was initiated against the mayor. He was suspended as eight allegations were proved to be true, the order says.

Barrister Rafiqul Haque and Barrister Ruhul Kuddus Kajal stood for Methu while deputy attorney general M mokhlesur Rahman represented the government.

Methu, also vice-president of Faridpur district Awami League, was known as a loyalist to Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Engineer Khandker Mosharraf Hossain.

However, he has been at loggerheads with the minister's brother for the last few months.

No US visa lottery or invitations for Bangladeshis: US Embassy

DHAKA : The US Embassy in Dhaka on Monday said it did not send any letter to any individual over 'Diversity Visa Programme' as Bangladesh is no longer eligible for it, reports UNB.

"The Embassy has learned that Bangladeshi citizens have received emails claiming they won the US visa lottery or invitations to enroll in the lottery. These emails are fraudulent and are not sent by the US Embassy,"

said a media statement issued by the US Embassy.

It requested all to note that the US government does not communicate via email or telephone that an enrollee has won the visa lottery, nor advertise to enroll in the lottery.

The Diversity Visa (DV) Programme, also known as the Visa Lottery, ended for Bangladesh citizens in September 2012.

US law states that no DVs shall be provided for coun-

tries from which there were more than a total of 50,000 immigrants during the previous five years.

Bangladesh has sent more than 50,000 immigrants to the US over the past five years, and as a result, is no longer eligible for the Diversity Visa Programme.

As this programme no longer exists for the citizens of Bangladesh, Bangladeshis should not attempt to enroll in any kind of Diversity Visa lottery programme.

Bus-truck collision kills 3 in Magura

MAGURA : Three people were killed and 10 others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a truck on Dhaka-Khulna highway at Wapda intersection in Sreepur upazila Monday morning, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Nazrul Islam, 35, of Shailakupa in Jhenidah district, Zillur Rahman, 38 of Manikganj district and Kazi Saheb, 35 of Comilla district. Jahangir Alam, officer-in-charge of Magura Police Station said the accident took place around 9 am when a bus collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction, leaving two people dead on the spot and 11 others injured.

The injured were rushed to Magura Sadar Hospital where Zillur Rahman died later.

US for working together to counter terrorist financing

DHAKA : US Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement William R Brownfield on Monday said governments and non-government organisations will have to work together to counter terrorist financing, reports UNB.

"The fight against terrorism is truly a global endeavour," Brownfield said laying emphasis on exchanging and sharing information among countries across the globe to stop terrorist financing.

The US Assistant Secretary was addressing the opening session of a three-day regional conference for prosecutors titled 'Good Giving - Countering Terrorist Financing and

Violent Extremism in the Charitable Community' at a city hotel.

Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) of the United Nations Elizabeth Joyce and president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute Farooq Sobhan also spoke at the opening session.

Participants from Bangladesh, the Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan are attending the conference funded by the Counter Terrorism Bureau.

William Brownfield said charities and NGOs collect millions of dollars each year for benevolent causes across the globe.

The vast majority of these organisations are created to help those in need and serve

to promote socioeconomic development, he said.

"Unfortunately, a portion of this money, whether by design or through the exploitation of legitimate organisations, is diverted to support the acts of terrorism," Brownfield said.

He emphasised encouraging those good charities and NGOs for their socioeconomic development activities and also to give attention so that no money gets diverted unintentionally to terrorism acts.

"Domestic, inter-agency cooperation as well as international collaboration are critical if we are to succeed in denying terrorist organisations a safe haven in the charitable and NGO sector," Brownfield said.

Kishoreganj war crimes Martyr's son testifies against Hachen

DHAKA : The 1971 war crimes trial against Syed Hachen Ali alias Hasan of Kishoreganj began in absentia at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 with the deposition of prosecution witnesses (PWs) on Monday, reports UNB.

Renu Chandra Paul, now 61, son of martyred Suresh Chandra Paul of village Shimulhati in Tarail, Kishoreganj, testified against the fugitive accused as PW-1.

Recollecting the incident of September 9 during the Liberation War, PW Renu told the tribunal that Hachen with trimmed beard, wearing khaki uniform and white cap on head, had marched into the village brandishing his rifle with a group of Razakar.

He said that appearing at the village, Hachen had started shouting, "Capture the malauns (a derogatory term for Hindus) and kill them... none will be spared."

Hearing the threat, PW Renu said, "I entered my house and asked my parents and other family members to flee for a safe place and all except my father managed to take shelter in a nearby jungle." He further told the tribunal that he had witnessed the scene from his hiding how his father and eleven other people were captured and later gunned down.

The perpetrators had also plundered the houses in the village and later set fire to those before leaving the place, said the PW.

The deposition over, the three-member tribunal, headed by Justice M Enayetur Rahim adjourned the proceedings for Tuesday.

IFC, VF provide loans to 3 RMG units to improve workplace safety

DHAKA : IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, and leading apparel supplier chain company VF Corporation provided loans of US\$ 10 million to three garment factories under a new program for funding fire and building safety improvements, reports UNB.

The financing will support its suppliers to improve workplace safety conditions, said a press release received here Monday.

IFC and its partner BRAC Bank are providing the loans to VF's contract suppliers, and the company is providing a full corporate guarantee under the financing arrangement. VF's guarantee to back the loans makes it possible for IFC to lend at lower interest rates, it said. IFC disbursed an initial set of loan payments, totaling \$1.3 million, to three factory owners: Arunima Sportswear, Ollo Apparels, and Radisson Apparel.

These owners will use the capital to invest in safety upgrades such as the installation of fire sprinklers, fire doors and detection systems, along with other necessary repairs and safety precautions.

Bagerhat war crimes PW-4 accuses Siraj of killing his father

DHAKA : A prosecution witness (PW), who carries the 1971 stab injury mark on his leg, on Monday accused Sirajul Huq of killing his father Kanailal Das at Ranjitpur, Bagerhat during the Liberation War on May 13, 1971, reports UNB.

"On the day, a group of armed Razakar, led by Siraj Master alias Kasha Siraj had marched into the village and carried out atrocities killing 50-60 unarmed Hindu people, including my father," recalled Tapan Kumar Das, now 56, before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 while testifying against the accused as PW-4.

"Accused Siraj had stabbed on my right leg before he gunned down my father in my presence," he said, showing the stab wound he has been bearing before the tribunal.

During the terrible operation, the perpetrators had also ransacked the victims' houses, which was followed by arson attack, said Tapan. He further said that later local people had dumped the bullet-riddled bodies by digging ditches.

Before closing his testimony, PW Tapan identified accused Siraj from among the three accused in the dock. The PW-4 will be cross-examined by the state-appointed defence counsel tomorrow (Tuesday). On November 5, the tribunal indicted detained accused Sirajul Huq alias Kasha Seraj, 72, Akram Hossain Khan, 61, and A Latif Talukder, 68, of Bagerhat for their involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The three commanders of Razakar, an auxiliary force of the Pakistan occupation army, face seven counts of charges of crimes against humanity that include killing, genocide, loot, arson, rape, abduction, torture, and conversion of Hindus to Muslim under duress during the Liberation War in Bagerhat district.

Interesting Facts

INTERESTING NEWS

- * A person cannot taste food unless it is mixed with saliva. For example, if strong-tasting substance like salt is placed on a dry tongue, the taste buds will not be able to taste it. This is true for all foods. Try it!

- * Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks otherwise it will digest itself.
- * A cockroach can live nine days without its head, before it starves to death.
- * Butterflies taste with their feet.
- * A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

